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ACCOUNT OF TWO
CHARITY SCHOOLS
FOR THE
EDUCATION OF GIRLS:
AND OF A
FEMALE FRIENDLY SOCIETY
IN YORK;
INTERSPERSED WITH REFLECTIONS
ON
CHARITY SCHOOLS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES
IN GENERAL.

BY CATHARINE CAPPE.

YORK:

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28

ACCOUNT OF TWO
CHARITY SCHOOLS
FOR THE
EDUCATION OF CHILDREN
IN THE
HUMBLE FRIENDS SOCIETY
FOR
THE
WORK

BY JAMES BROWN WITH ATTENDANT

ON

CHARITY SCHOOLS 42
IN CHINAPOLIS
1. 3
83.

BY JAMES BROWN



PREFACE.

THE design of the following pages, is to give a short History of the rise, progress, and present state of two Charitable Institutions in this City, called the SPINNING SCHOOL and the GREY COAT SCHOOL; and also of a third Institution, the FEMALE FRIENDLY SOCIETY, of its present state and proposed improvements.

The Writer sent some account of these Institutions, in the course of the last year, to the Monthly Magazine, but it having been suggested that to some who are interested in such investigations, it might be useful to have a more detailed account ; and moreover, circumstances having arisen, which evinced that the principles on which the Grey Coat School is conducted, have been misunderstood, it has been thought

adviseable to lay before the public such further particulars as may enable it to judge, how far in its present state, that School is worthy of patronage: Such a statement it is also hoped may render those regulations more stable which have had the sanction of reason and experience.

The subject, it is admitted, is an humble one: Yet to the Christian, who knows that in the eye of God, all his rational offspring are equal, all alike candidates for a glorious state of endless and happy existence; or to thinking persons of whatever description, the good order and proper regulation even of a Female Charity School, will not seem unworthy some portion of attention.

But there is another point of view in which the proper regulation of Charity Schools for Girls, may be considered as highly important, namely, that of fitting them for Servants.

In a late valuable publication on the subject of Practical Education, I was much struck with the following remark: Speaking of the many baneful consequences of suffering Children to be much in the company of Servants, such as they now generally are, the Authors say, "Let the Poor be well educated, and the difference in their conduct and understanding will repay society for the trouble of the

“undertaking.”* The writers add, in a note, that perhaps an institution for the education of Attendants upon Children, would be of the highest utility. What they here suggest, respecting those, whose future designation may be this, is perhaps not less true, if applied to servants in general; since it must be admitted, that servants who are sober minded, industrious and faithful, contribute essentially, not only to the peace and comfort of the family of which they are members, but also in their measure, to the order and happiness of society at large. I know that the education of the Grey Coat Girls, would not fully qualify them to become the enlightened attendants of children educated on the plan of Mr. and Miss Edgeworth, although I believe they will not be found deficient in habits of order, œconomy, decency, industry, and cleanliness; nor in the principles of general rectitude. But might not some of the many Charity Schools, already established throughout the kingdom, be regulated with a particular view to this object? This would be the more useful, as there is not any description of children, except those who are wholly maintained at the expence of the public,

* See a Treatise on Practical Education, by Mr. and Miss Edgeworth, Vol. 1, page 124.

whose education the public can have either the power or the right, entirely to direct.

We know who it is that hath said, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," and surely if a few specimens of Servants well educated, for different departments in families, were sent out from Charity Schools, something at least would be done towards the reformation of a class of persons, whom, taken as a body, we have long been accustomed to regard with suspicion. Nor would the service done society end here, for the children of Mothers, whose habits had been thus formed, would in their turn be much better educated than those of the generality of our poor now are.

Here, may I be permitted to bear testimony to the benevolent exertions of many Ladies of this City during a series of years, for the benefit of the Institutions about to be described? I know that the approbation of their own minds, is a reward far superior in its value to any praise which others can bestow; yet, to those of my Countrywomen, who have leisure, and to whom similar modes of usefulness may not have occurred, it cannot be improper to mention their example as praise-worthy, and as deserving of imitation.

In a state of Society, like that of this Country, it will always happen, that many Ladies, especially in the middle ranks of life, will be free from the cares of a family. Of what importance would it be to the happiness of such persons, voluntarily to take upon themselves the patronage and protection of forlorn and friendless young Women? We are so admirably framed, that in proportion as our benevolent affections are called into exercise, and our minds occupied in pursuits that are useful, in the same proportion will our own happiness, as well as that of others, be ultimately increased. This, however, I mention, merely as a fact, and not as a principal motive to such exertions; which, whatever may be their effects, ought not to originate in selfishness.

May I be allowed to suggest one consideration more, which if it do not immediately arise out of the subject, is however but too closely connected with it? If one profligate female, even of the lowest order, may be instrumental in spreading mischief and ruin to an immeasurable extent, what language can express their guilt, who are the seducers of innocence? I appeal not to the awful sanctions of Religion, for to Christians, who are really such, the appeal is unnecessary; I would merely ask, what sort of Members of Society are such characters?

The many instances of the fatal consequences of Female seduction, that from time to time have come to our knowledge; some, in which the seducers have been married men, the fathers of families, make me feel it a duty, having this opportunity, not to let the subject pass unnoticed: For assuredly, however lightly it may sometimes be spoken of, to betray and to desert an innocent young Woman, is an evil of the greatest magnitude, whether viewed in its effects on society at large, or as leading on the total ruin of an unhappy individual.

YORK,
DECEMBER 20, 1799.



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ON THE **LEGEND** **OF** **THE** **WOLF** **OF** **MONTECRISTO**

SPINNING SCHOOL.

THE plan of this Institution was first suggested by a circumstance merely accidental. Towards the close of the year 1782, Mrs. Gray and myself, painfully impressed by the behaviour of a set of Children employed in a Hemp Manufactory in our neighbourhood, feeling deeply for their ignorance, and for the innumerable evils to which, particularly the Girls employed in it, were exposed, determined to try if something could not be done to mend their condition.

Our first thought, was to have them taught to read, knit, and sew, in an evening after they had finished their work in the Manufactory, and that a person, whom we meant to engage, should accompany them to Public Worship on the Sunday. The month of October was principally spent in drawing plans, making the necessary arrangements, &c. : and on the 7th of November, having been encouraged by some

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donations and subscriptions from a few particular friends* to whom we had communicated our design, Twenty-two young Girls were entered with a Mistress whom we had engaged to teach them.

Early in the year 1783, we were joined by Mrs. Withers, who immediately took an active part; and towards the close of it, by the Dowager Lady Anderson, and the Lady of Dr. Withers.

Throughout the whole of this year we made every effort in our power for the benefit of the girls employed in this manufactory, but at length, finding it in vain to hope for any effectual reformation, while they continued under the influences to which their situation there exposed them; and feeling a more peculiar interest for those individual children, in whose behalf we had thus exerted ourselves, we determined to try if we could not rescue them from their perilous situation, by endeavouring so to augment our little subscription, as to establish a School for the Spinning of Worsted, and thus enable ourselves to make the parents of these children an offer of allowing them wages equal to what they then earned, and of placing them under our own protection.

* See Appendix, No. I.

We were further stimulated to make the attempt of establishing a Spinning School, from considerations of a more general nature, such as the great want of some Institution, whereby the children of the poor might gain habits of industry in a City like York, where many of the Mothers, obtaining a livelihood by going into families as washer-women and char-women, and not being able to afford the expence of sending their children to school, leave them at large in the streets, by which, girls, especially, acquire habits extremely ruinous to themselves, and hurtful to the whole community.

On the 10th of May, 1784, circumstances having arisen, to make it necessary to take immediately some decisive step respecting the Girls employed in the hemp manufactory, we sent for the Parents of these children, making them the offer already mentioned, which several accepted; and that very evening, eighteen young Girls were placed by their parents under our protection. We had, however, still a Room to hire, a Spinning Mistress to engage, Wheels, and proper materials to procure; which prevented us from putting our plan into regular execution till the 1st of July following.

During the whole of 1784, some part of every day was occupied either in contriving the dif-

ferent arrangements, or in making the necessary efforts to put them in execution. The difficulties to be surmounted were various, and discouraging ; some of them arising from circumstances merely local, I shall not enumerate ; others, of a more general nature, and which will probably always be met with at the commencement of similar undertakings, it may be useful to mention :

First, the irregular attendance of the children. Unaccustomed at home to habits of order and regularity, it is extremely difficult to make either themselves or their parents comprehend the necessity of acquiring such habits.

Secondly, the difficulty of devising effectual punishments, and of putting them in execution. Among the lower classes, a child is beaten by the parents for every little offence, and sometimes, if the parents happen to be in a bad humour or any thing goes wrong, for no offence at all ; corporal punishment therefore if it could be resorted to, (which however I am persuaded in such Institutions it never ought to be) would want much of its effect from this very circumstance, that the children have been accustomed to be thus treated, whether with or without any adequate cause, at their own homes. No means of punishment therefore seemed to remain ; but

little privations on the one hand, and marks of disgrace to be inflicted on the other. In respect of the first, as in general these privations cannot take place immediately, their effect is considerably weakened; and as to the second, if not administered with great prudence and with a sparing hand, they will not only cease to be felt as any punishment at all, but may do much mischief by early destroying that acute sense of shame and disgrace, which among persons decently educated, is the most powerful preservative of virtuous conduct. For instance, if a child spin thick, be idle, or waste her wool, it may be useful for the Mistress to turn her bed-gown or to pin some of the thick spun wool to her shoulder, threatening that if she be not more careful and more industrious, she shall be so exhibited to her Patronesses, or other accidental Visitors of the School; but this threatening, if it can be avoided should not be put in execution. The disgrace should be removed the moment it seems to make impression, and should not even be mentioned by the Mistress to the Visitors in the hearing of the child; for the dread of being exposed will operate much more powerfully upon a child who believes that those whom she most respects are ignorant of her fault, than if she knows that they are already made acquainted with it. Much less ought such kind

of exhibitions ever to be made out of School. Public disgrace of any kind, would really be disproportioned to the fault committed, and besides the feeling of resentment it would excite, both in parents and children, would be likely to produce the most pernicious effects on the whole of their future character.

Another difficulty in such undertakings, is the finding a proper Mistress. From what has been just remarked on the subject of punishments, it is obvious, that the orderly conduct of the children, their industry and improvement of every kind will greatly depend, on the good sense, the firmness, the self-command, the forbearance, and the kind dispositions of her who fills this important place. But these are qualities not usually met with in persons who are willing to accept of such an employment. We did not succeed in finding one who would at all answer our wishes, although we made every enquiry in our power, and made trial of several, till April, 1785, when we engaged a person from Halifax, who came to fix in York on our account, and from that time the affairs of the School went on much more prosperously than they had done before. This person really possessed the requisite good qualities, understood spinning and the various branches of manufacture connected with it, could make out

the accounts to the Manufacturers, was strictly honest, and had a decency of manner and behaviour, the result perhaps of having filled a better station, which enabled her to preserve a proper authority, without having recourse to severity. She remained Mistress of the School till the year 1796, when circumstances arising which made it inconvenient to her to continue in that situation, she requested leave to resign; and since that time the great difficulty of finding a proper Mistress has again been experienced.

In the Summer of 1785 we were joined by Miss Hasell, who from that time to the present has been an important Patroness of the Institution, and at the close of this year we first published a printed Statement of the Subscriptions received, Money expended, &c. also some account of the objects of the Institution.*

In the year 1786, a Knitting School was added for the reception of children too young to spin worsted. From this the Spinners are taken as vacancies happen in the Spinning School, and as they become eligible by knitting a stocking in the course of a week, which is previously required.

* See Appendix, No. 2.

Many applications having from time to time been made from different parts of the Kingdom for an outline of our plan, with a view to the establishment of similar Institutions, a short account of the ends and objects aimed at, also of the mode in which the Institution was conducted, was drawn up and printed at the close of the year 1789.*

As soon as the children can spin four hanks of wool per day, they are decently clothed, and moreover as an encouragement they receive one fourth of their earnings in money at the end of the week, it being found that a present benefit, however small, has more influence over the parents of such children, as well as over the children themselves, than an advantage which is more distant, although its magnitude should be much greater. They make their own clothes, which is a further advantage, as by that means they receive some instruction in sewing from the Knitting Mistress, who has two of the Spinners constantly for a month in rotation under her care for that purpose. It would have been much more agreeable to these parents, and would have occasioned much less trouble to the Ladies who superintend the School, if the children were to receive the whole of their earnings in wages, without having any clothes given

* See Appendix, No. 3.

them ; but if they were not clothed, many of the children would be sent in such a state as would render this very superintendance, in itself so necessary, nearly impracticable ; and besides, without this, any material change in their manners and behaviour could hardly be expected, decency of apparel being more closely connected with decency of character, than may at first sight seem evident.

The quantity of clothes given to the Spinners, is regulated by a fixed * rule, bearing proportion to the earnings of the individual, † an account of which is regularly set down every night by the Mistress, in a Book kept by her for that purpose, which is overlooked by the Lady, who, for the time being, pays the wages, and adjusts the rewards at the close of every week. She also states the various particulars of what has been received or expended, in the papers printed annually and distributed to the Subscribers at the end of the year.

Till within the last four years the Writer of these papers transacted this business, and more-

* The Rules of the Schools determine the wages, rewards, and forfeits, and hours of attendance of the children ; which vary with the seasons of the year.—There are Rules too for the regulation of their conduct on Sundays. A copy may be had at the Spinning School, in St. Andrewgate.

† See Appendix, No. 4.

over, together with the other Ladies who from the first were coadjutors, superintended every thing that related to the Institution. At length finding the time engrossed by this constant attendance incompatible with other duties, Mrs. Dr. Withers and Miss Barton took the care of the Books, Expenditure, Yearly Statement, &c. and to their unwearied exertions since that time the Charity has been much indebted.

In the course of last year (1798) having the sum of 207l. 3s. od. in one of the Banks of * this City, (saved from the annual Subscriptions) and having engaged a house for a term of years, containing rooms for the Spinners and Knitters, besides suitable apartments for the two Mistresses; the Spinning School appeared to have attained that degree of stability that might encourage the hope of it becoming a permanent Institution; we judged it expedient therefore to divide the business of general superintendance into particular departments, especially as that plan had been early adopted with success, in conducting the Grey Coat School. It is as follows :

1st Division, To keep the Books; receive Subscriptions; pay the Wages of the Mistresses and

* In the Appendix, No. 5, is subjoined an account of the Money subscribed; of the Money expended; of what has been earned by Spinning; and of the number of Girls taught in each School, from the year 1785, to the close of 1798, taken from the annual printed papers.

Children, (which requires attendance in Person, or by Deputy, at least every Saturday morning;) to draw up and state the annual Accounts; and to be responsible for the whole of the Expenditure.

2d, To provide materials for Clothing; to cut out the Clothes; to appropriate the Sewing Work; and to keep an account of the several Articles given to each individual.

3dly, To superintend the Wool Spinning; to see it weighed both before and after it is spun; to correspond with the Manufacturers; and to assist the Mistress in keeping the Accounts, and in any other necessary calculation to which she may not be equal.

4thly, Daily superintendance. This to be divided among eight Ladies, each to attend in rotation for the term of six weeks. They are to take cognizance from time to time of every thing that passes; to make minutes of whatever may deserve attention; and to state the result of these observations on Saturday, to those Ladies who attend on that day to pay the rewards, and to distribute clothes. These propositions being brought forward at the annual General Meeting of the Patronesses of the Institution in January last, were unanimously ap-

proved, and the several departments occupied as follows :

The Books and Expenditure—Miss Hafell.

The Clothes, &c.—Miss Salmond, Miss Marsh, Mrs. Perrot, Miss Clough, and Miss Grimston.

The Wool—Mrs. Dr. Withers and Miss Barton.

Six Weeks Visitors.—Mrs. Withers, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Dring, Mrs. Gray, Miss Royds, Miss Gray, Mrs. Cappe, and Miss Salmond.

In the year 1797, a second Subscription was promoted for the object of supplying the Children with Milk for Breakfast. They attend the School early, and it was found not only that a great deal of time was wasted in going and returning, but that their breakfasts at home consisting generally of ordinary Tea, without Milk or Sugar, was not sufficiently nutritive to enable them to go through their work; and the good effects of this additional benefit are visible in the improved looks and greater activity and exertion of the children, and moreover it acts as an incentive to constant regular attendance.

As these Papers may fall into the hands of some who have not read the account of this

School, published in the Monthly Magazine last year, that part is subjoined which gives an account of the general conduct of the Girls after leaving it, as by that means a better judgment may be formed respecting the utility of such an Institution.

Some have turned out remarkably well, several are now decent members of our Friendly Society, and if we have been disappointed in the behaviour of others, it is not to be wondered at, considering the character of the Parents by whom these Children are brought up, the greater part of whom are themselves extremely ignorant, and without any habits of self government; and as the leading object of the Institution is to save from ruin those whose situation would otherwise expose them to it, melioration of character, rather than perfect good conduct, is perhaps as much as can reasonably be expected. It may be observed however, that efforts of this kind, persevered in for a long series of years, would continually become less difficult, and eventually more successful; it being obvious, that the children of those whose characters were made so far better than that of their predecessors, would have fewer disadvantages to contend with, and be in less danger from the power of contrary influences."

The Conductors of this Institution are well aware that in a large City like York, one such School of Industry and that for Girls only, cannot be expected to produce any visible change in the manners and appearance of the lower orders in general. They know and lament that multitudes of forlorn children are still daily in the streets, untaught and unemployed. Some little, it is evident, may be done towards the prevention of this evil by the exertion of private individuals; but nothing less than the interference and protection of the Magistrate, would be effectual to complete its cure. For, were Schools of Industry so multiplied that the child of every person in needy circumstances could be admitted; still, whilst our Poor Laws remain as they are at present, so constituted, and so administered as to hold out a certain support to the idle and profligate, many parents would not send their children to be taught and employed in them. I do not presume to say what alteration in the Poor Laws, or what interference of the Magistrate would be effectual. Some such plan generally adopted as that of the active and benevolent Count Rumford at Munich, or, (as seeming more practicable in this Country) of the excellent Mr. Voght, at Hamburgh, together with the general encouragement and patronage of Benefit Societies, promises much for the attainment of this most

desirable end : It is not however too much to predict that, although efforts like these might not be effectual, without other aids, to produce a general reformation of the lower classes ; yet that the sum of happiness in respect of numbers of individuals, would be thereby exceedingly increased.



THE GREAT
INTRODUCTION
TO THE
EDUCATION
OF CHILDREN
IN THE
PRACTICAL
METHOD

BY
JOHN
HARVEY
LONDON
1830
PRINTED
FOR
THE
PRACTICAL
METHOD
SOCIETY
BY
J. B. DODS
AND
SONS
1830

(21)

of Blue Coat School, and of the old and
new Schools in the City, and the
a Committee of the said two Schools to
see if such a School, as to be
evidently to supply an additional and
suitable place for the poor Children to

ON THE GREY COAT SCHOOL,

AND THE

REGULATIONS

INTRODUCED INTO IT, IN THE YEARS

1786 & 1787.

THE Grey Coat School in this City, so denominated from the colour of the uniform worn by the Children, was founded in the beginning of the present Century.* Its object, like many other similar Institutions in this Kingdom, seems

* I have not been able to ascertain with whom the design of forming the two Charity Schools in this City, viz. one for Boys, denominated the Blue Coat School, and the other for Girls to be described in these papers, at first originated: I find, however, the name of Lady Hewley among the earliest benefactors, for the sum of 200l. from whence I think it probable as well as from her general character of piety and benevolence, which led her to become the foundress of many charitable institutions, that if the plan did not originate with her, yet that the first promoters of it were encouraged by her liberality to put their design in execution.

to have been merely that of supplying the means of a better education to a certain number of poor Girls, Orphans, or the Children of very distressed Parents, than they could have obtained in a Parish Poor-House, or in the Houses of their indigent Relatives. If, therefore, through any defect in the original plan, or any neglect in the manner in which it is executed, the Girls in such an Institution are in fact not better educated than they otherwise would have been, the object aimed at by the benevolent Founders is not attained.

The Girls, at first twenty in number, were boarded with a Master and Mistress, who engaged to teach them to read, write, sew, knit, and spin worsted; the profits of their labour were received by the Master and Mistress. The Girls were likewise to be taught to wash, and to do other household work, and when they left the School, were to be bound apprentice for four years to any decent family who might be desirous of taking them. Afterwards, the funds of the Charity having increased, the number of Girls was augmented to thirty.

On seeing this statement, the first impression, would probably be much in favor of the Institution; respecting its object, there could be no

doubt : I proceed however to state a few facts, in order to shew how far that object was attained.

Being at York on a visit, about the year 1780, I heard the Grey Coat School several times mentioned, and always in terms of regret.— The Charity School for Boys, it was said, was an useful institution, upon the whole well conducted ; but it somehow or other happened, that very few of the girls turned out well, that many of them were sickly, remarkably low of stature, and that their whole appearance was very unfavourable. One day this subject was mentioned in the presence of a Gentleman of this City, who had for many years attended the School as a medical man, and who still attends it : he lamented that the opinion generally entertained of the School was but too just, and added, that to his knowledge there were at that time nine miserable girls, who had been educated in it, upon the town, the wretched victims of prostitution. It struck me instantly, that effects so uniform, must proceed either from some fault in the original constitution of the school itself, or from the manner in which it was conducted ; and I determined, if it ever were in my power, thoroughly to investigate the subject.

In the year 1785, a new building being completed for the reception of the girls belonging

this charity, Mrs. Gray and myself, having, as it was thought, had some success in the establishment of the Spinning School, were requested by the late Mr. Mortimer and Mr. Alderman Stabler, in their own names, and in the names of the rest of the Governors, to give our opinion respecting the regulations so much wanted, and our assistance towards putting them in execution; and about the same time the Dowager Lady Anderson, and Mrs. Swainston, were likewise applied to by Mr. Mortimer, for the same purpose.

Consulting together, we determined to comply with the request of the Gentlemen, and were immediately joined by Mrs. Withers, and the late Mrs. Deighton.

Before their application to us, the Gentlemen had agreed with a Master and Mistress of the name of Lazenby to board the Girls on the same plan as formerly; the Mistress was to employ them as should best suit her convenience, and to have the benefit of their labor.

On considering the subject, we determined, before we undertook the regulation of the School, to state to the Gentlemen what we conceived to be the ends and objects at which a Charity School for Girls should particularly aim,

and this we did in our first paper * sent to the Gentlemen's Committee ; it was our design afterwards, to endeavour to point out to them, from time to time, such regulations as should appear most effectual for the attainment of these objects. In this paper also, the outline was sketched of a plan for arranging the Girls, &c. in such manner that their respective employments should regularly follow each other, and not be left to the caprice, nor be affected by the interest of the Mistress ; but as what was at that time suggested, has since been put in practice ; and as the plan in its present improved state, will be described in this account, it is unnecessary to transcribe that part of it here.

This paper meeting with the approbation of the Gentlemen, we were requested to visit the School, to examine into its actual state. We found the children, then thirty in number, generally diseased both in body and mind ; their appearance sickly and dejected ; their ignorance extreme ; and the description given by the new Master and Mistress, of their moral depravity, truly deplorable.†

* See Extracts, Appendix 6.

† See Appendix, No 7.

The faults to which these poor girls were addicted, being all of that class which are the result of scanty fare and harsh treatment, the first steps to be taken were evidently such as should most effectually counteract these evils; but as the accomplishment of this, would probably involve the necessity of an intire change in the whole plan of the School, we were aware that we must proceed with caution, in order, if possible, to avoid the opposition, which an attempt at what would be called innovation, would be certain to excite, were too much attempted at once. In the second paper, therefore, we did not propose any alterations, to which the Gentlemen had not already consented; we merely stated the necessity of having two Assistant Teachers—one in the Wool Spinning Room, and the other to teach sewing, knitting, and line-spinning; their wages to be paid out of the Fund, not by the Master and Mistress; and to this proposal also, the Governors consented.

During the month of February, we visited the School almost every day, and had already the satisfaction of perceiving some improvement in the appearance of the children; of which notice was taken in a third paper sent to the Gentlemen, at their Monthly Committee Meeting on the 3d of March. In this paper a request

was preferred, that the number of Girls might be augmented to thirty-five: also, that the present set might continue in the School two years longer, the reasons being given in detail; and to both these requests the Committee consented. We now also ventured, for the first time, to mention our objections against putting the Girls out Apprentices on their leaving the School; also, our reasons for disapproving the method then in use, of boarding the children with the Master and Mistress.*

The Committee, however, did not at that time agree with us in opinion on either of these subjects.†

In reply to this answer of the Governors, we sent a fourth paper to their Monthly Meeting on the fifth of April, in which, with many proposals for present lesser Regulations, (to all of which the Gentlemen consented) we stated, that although we were not convinced by their arguments in favour of continuing the present mode of maintaining the Children during their stay in the School, and of binding them Apprentices when they left it, we should not at that time press the subject any further; earnest,

* See extracts, Appendix, No. 8.

† See their Answer, Appendix, No. 9.

ly requesting however, that the Governors would not then pass any decided Resolution on these subjects.*

About this time, (April) our Committee of Ladies was joined by Mrs. Salmond, to whose unremitting and unwearied exertions, from that time, to the present, the Institution owes much of its excellence.

Some of my readers may perhaps censure so minute a detail of these transactions, and I am ready to allow that the censure would be just, were the object no more than merely to relate the little history of a particular Charity School. But as the methods which were in use here, of maintaining the Children by boarding them with a Master and Mistress, and of binding them Apprentices when they left the School, prevail very generally in similar Institutions, it is the earnest wish of the Writer to call the attention of the considerate and humane to these subjects: for, as similar causes will generally produce effects that are similar, the reasoning on which these objections are founded will remain unshaken, although it should happen, in some particular cases, that the evils here complained of were counteracted by accidental circumstances.

* See extracts, Appendix, No. 10.

For instance, if it were to happen that a Person should be met with willing to undertake the management of such an Institution, whose primary object was the good of the Children, and not personal emolument, in this case it is admitted, that although the Children were boarded, there would be no danger of their being abridged of Food or Clothing: but are such characters commonly to be met with? Is it wise, so to frame the constitution of any Establishment, that its well-being shall depend upon an accidental circumstance, which cannot fairly be expected to occur one time in a thousand?

Again, it may happen that a Girl whose disposition is uncommonly docile, may be so fortunate as to be bound Apprentice for her labour to a Master and Mistress, who are conscientious, gentle, and humane, who keep no other servant that might counteract their kindness, and who have no pampered children suffered to tyranize over an object in their power. In such a case, the protection afforded on the one hand may generate gratitude, and the services received on the other, together with the helpless forlorn situation of the object, from whom they are received, may produce increased attachment and good-will. But are such characters, and such situations usually met with? Is it

not obvious that a general inference should not be drawn in favour of any practice, from its success in one particular instance?

But to return to the history of our School. During the month of April, the Mistress of the School became deranged in her understanding, and her husband found it necessary to place her in the Lunatic Asylum. Soon afterwards we heard, that this circumstance had increased a very general prejudice, which had previously been excited in the City against our new regulations, to which it was now said, the unhappy malady of this unfortunate woman was solely to be attributed. Although we did not much regard these reports, yet we judged it proper to take some notice of them in a paper sent to the Governors on the 4th of May.*

In the beginning of June, a paper was sent to the Monthly Meeting of the Governors, stating more at large our objections to the present mode of Apprenticeships:† this was signed by nine Ladies of the Committee, three being absent, and three holding their judgment in suspense on the subject, till they should see the whole of

* See extracts, Appendix, No. 11.

† See extracts, Appendix, No. 12.

a plan to be substituted for retaining the Girls under our patronage, after leaving the School. To this paper no answer was returned by the Gentlemen.

During this month also, a plan was sketched out by the Writer of these papers, and sent to Mr. Mortimer, framed on the general idea of prolonging the patronage of the Ladies to the Girls beyond the period of their continuance in the School; and a Subscription was entered into for the accomplishment of this object, by the Ladies who had signed the former paper.* This small Subscription it was at first proposed should be deposited in the hands of Mr. Mortimer, then Treasurer of the Institution, but he declining it, Mrs. Salmond undertook the charge, and continued it till the August of 1788, when the Friendly Society, of which the patronage of these Girls was the leading object, was completely formed. Mrs. Salmond therefore, was in fact the sole Stewardess of that Society in its infant state, more than two years, a period of greater fatigue and difficulty, than any that has since occurred.

During the months of July and August, an almost daily attendance at the school was necessary, and

* See Appendix, No. 13.

we found, on very close investigation, that the Master was unfit for the trust reposed in him, not only on account of the deranged state of his wife, but for many other reasons which are stated at length in a paper now before me. But this paper was not sent to the Governors, (many of them being then out of town) and as it relates merely to a particular case, I shall not make any extracts from it.

The Governors, at a Monthly Meeting on the first of September, requested the opinion of the Ladies on the propriety of retaining the Master of the School, in the absence of his wife; and they were requested, if his services were not found necessary, to appoint a Matron. In consequence of this message, we met on the fifth of that month, and after coming to several resolutions, adjourned to the second of October, when we met again, and agreed on the contents of a paper to be sent to the Governors at their Monthly Meeting on the fourth of October. This paper, contained our opinion, that it was necessary to dismiss the present Master and Mistress, and that it would be most proper to engage a Matron, to preside over the Girls. We requested moreover, that an experiment might then be made, previously to a permanent agreement with a Matron, of the difference in expence between the present mode of boarding

the Children, and that which we had formerly recommended.

In their answer, the Governors were pleased to acquiesce in all our proposals, and from that time, they have given the Ladies entire power to follow the dictates of their own judgement, both in respect to the regulation of the Girls while they continue in the School, the time of their leaving it, and the method of disposing of them afterwards. From this period therefore, (October 17, 1786) apprenticeships were abolished, and the provisions and other household expences have been paid for immediately out of the Funds of the Charity.



History of the School

SINCE
THE CONDUCTING OF IT DEVOLVED ENTIRELY
UPON
THE LADIES.

I WILL not trouble my readers with the particulars of the different Mistresses at first engaged, experiments tried, &c. &c. as the enumeration of these could hardly be of use in any similar undertaking: suffice it to say, that it was not till the May of 1787, that the outline of the plan could be quite filled up, nor till then, that the regulations of the School completely assumed their present form.

As it was necessary for the sake of order, that the external government, as well as the internal

* Their Committee consisted of Mrs. Swainston, Lady Anderson, Mrs. Withers, Mrs. Gray, the Lady of Dr. Withers, Mrs. Salmond, the late Mrs. Deighton, the late Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Bedingfield, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Eyre, the late Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Cheap, Mrs. R. Croft, and Mrs. Cappe.

regulations of the School, should have Laws permanently established, we drew up the following:—

1. That four meetings should be held in the course of the year, * at which, all who had already, or might hereafter chuse to take upon themselves the superintendence of the School, should be desired to attend. That at these meetings, all affairs relating to the Charity, should be discussed: new regulations, if at any time such appeared necessary, proposed; abuses redressed; and particular instances of merit, whether in the Mistresses or Scholars, rewarded.

2. That at these quarterly meetings, some one Lady should act as President, another as Secretary; to minute whatever particular transaction might deserve notice, in a book appropriated to that purpose.

3. That at every quarterly meeting, two Ladies should be appointed particular Superintendents for the next three months, to attend in succession, six weeks at a time.

At first we imagined, that this constant superintendence of one of the Committee, for the

* On the 2d of February; the 1st of May; the 2nd of August; and the 12th of November.

purpose of general inspection, might have been sufficient for every purpose, but we found upon trial, not only that the various particulars which required looking after, were too many for one person to attend to, but moreover that some parts could be better done by the same Lady throughout the year, than by many in succession. Accordingly it was proposed at the following quarterly meeting, in August 1787, that, in addition to the six weeks attendance of one of the Committee, four other Ladies should take upon themselves the following departments :

1. To overlook the accounts of the Matron ; order and superintend the victuals ; sign all the bills ; fix the respective tasks, proportioning them to the age, strength, and abilities of the children ; pay the rewards every week ; take charge of the reward-box, * and in fact to

* This Box is divided into 40 partitions, each cell having written on it, the name of the Girl whose little treasure it is to contain. The money given to every Girl is always minuted in a book kept for that purpose ; so that in case of any mistake, the book and the box may serve as a check upon each other ; it being exceedingly important, not only that the strictest justice should be shewn in the distribution of rewards, but that the greatest care be taken to keep safely, whatever has been distributed. These little rewards, serve, not only as a stimulus to industry, and to impress the minds of the children with accurate ideas of

superintend the whole expenditure and economy of the School: also the management of the garden, and particularly of the culinary vegetables.

2. To class the children, arranging them according to a regular plan every six weeks, as wool-spinners, line-spinners, sewers, knitters and house Girls. Also to order their clothes, to cut them out ready to be made by each Girl, for herself, when it is her turn to sew, + and to cut out the house-linen, sheets, towels, &c.
3. To purchase the flax; superintend the weaving; pay the bills of that department; and to take care that a sufficient quantity of linen of every kind be manufactured before Good Friday, ready for the services of the following year.

of property, but also to teach them the value of labor, and the importance of saving the smallest sums; from the accumulation of which, they discover that halfpence, and even farthings, continually added to, will in time amount to shillings, half crowns, and even half guineas.

+ The clothes for the ensuing year are always made ready against Good-Friday; and the materials for the clothes of the following year are also ready cut out, that no time may be lost. On that day, the children receive their new clothes, which have been kept in a closet, containing forty small partitions, the name of each Girl being upon her own cell, as in the reward-box. These clothes are immediately replaced, with materials for the next set, and are taken out as they are wanted to be made, and afterwards replaced in the same cell, when finished.

4. To superintend the wool-spinning ; to see that it reaches the proper counts ; that every pound is marked with the girl's name who spun it ; that it is reeled right ; that the Mistress keeps her spinning closet in order, and spinning book with accuracy ;* to correspond with the Manufacturer ; keep all the accounts ; receive the money earned by spinning ; (which is paid annually to the Treasurer) and to see every pound of yarn weighed before it is returned to the manufacturer.

The first department was undertaken by Mrs. Salmond.—The second by Mrs. Swainston.—The third by the lady of Dr. Withers, and the fourth by the writer of these papers, who transacted this business to the best of her power,

* The Wool Spinning Mistress has a Closet divided like the Clothes Closet and Reward Box, with the name of each girl upon the partition appropriated for the reception of her particular hanks as soon as they are spun ; the names being changed every six weeks when the new arrangements take place. This closet the Mistress examines every night, and she enters in a book what every girl has spun in the course of the day. This book is shewn at the end of the week to the Lady who pays the rewards ; and each Girl is separately commended or reproofed, and her respective task raised or lowered, accordingly as the circumstances may require. A book is likewise kept by the other assistant Mistress, with the particulars of the stockings knit, and line spun, in the course of the week. The same method is followed in the Spinning School.

upwards of two years, when, finding the portion of time it required, incompatible with other duties, especially with prior engagements to the Spinning School, the Master, who teaches the House-Girls writing and accounts, was engaged to undertake this department, with an increased salary of 10l. per annum; with this difference only, that the Money received from the Manufacturers, is now paid to Mrs. Salmond, and by her accounted for, to the treasurer.

The Ladies who undertook the three first departments in August, 1787, still continue those offices, and confer the greatest benefit on the charity.*

The business of the Ladies who take upon themselves the office of *general* inspectors, and who succeed each other every six weeks, is as follows :

To hear every Girl read and spell, at least twice; once, when she enters on her superintendence, and again, before she resigns it. To minute down whatever may merit attention, whether as matter of praise, or of blame, in the

* Since these papers were written, the Institution has sustained a great loss, by the sudden and lamented death of Mrs. Swainston.

conduct of the Mistresses, or Girls, in a book to be produced at the ensuing general Committee Meeting. To inspect from time to time, the clothes presses, beds, sheets, &c. To see that all things are in proper order, and in short, to take notice of every thing, whether furniture, repairs, or whatever else may be wanted for the benefit of the Institution : Moreover, to call an extraordinary Committee Meeting, if any exigence should arise to make such a proceeding necessary.

What relates to the internal regulation of the School, I shall copy from the account published in the Monthly Magazine, in the number for August, 1797.

“ Instead of its being optional to employ the “ children at what time and in what manner the “ Mistress may please, their employments are “ subject to general laws, from which no de- “ viation whatever is allowed, without per- “ mission of the Ladies Committee.

“ The outline of these laws is as follows :

“ The whole School is divided into classes. “ 1st. Ten girls, who in turn fill the office of “ Servants, and who, as five leave the school “ every year, are of course in that class the two

“ last years of their remaining in it, and are
 “ distinguished from the others in their dress
 “ by a green, instead of a grey stuff gown ; and
 “ secondly, Thirty, who for distinctions sake,
 “ may be denominated scholars. The laws re-
 “ specting those in the class of Servants, are the
 “ following :

“ Two, are house-maids ; two, kitching-
 “ maids ; two, assistants in washing and getting
 “ up the linen (which takes up two days in
 “ every week) ; two, house-assistants on those
 “ days ; and two carders and spinners of waste
 “ wool, which is manufactured for the use of
 “ the school, and who also twist the worsted
 “ for the stockings. The four, who are wash-
 “ ing and house assistants, spin wool on the four
 “ days when they are not wanted for that pur-
 “ pose, having regular tasks set. The four
 “ *servants* are employed by the Matron, when
 “ they have done their house-work, in mending
 “ the clothes and other linen used in the family,
 “ bleaching the cloth spun for house use, (for
 “ every article worn by the girls, except shoes and
 “ stays, and straw hats, is manufactured by them-
 “ selves) and in making child clothes, of ma-
 “ terials sent by the Ladies for poor people,
 “ &c. &c. They all change alternately every
 “ six weeks, according to a regular plan, so that
 “ in the course of thirty weeks, every one

“ has filled these several places for the space
 “ of six weeks ; and the whole ten have a Master
 “ three days a week to teach them writing and
 “ arithmetic, and to improve them in reading.

“ The rules respecting the thirty Scholars are
 “ as follows : Twenty are always employed in
 “ spinning wool for the manufacturer, and for
 “ their own clothing. This may not impro-
 “ perly be called their *trade*, not only as the
 “ money gained and saved by it to the Institu-
 “ tion is considerable, but moreover as by
 “ means of it, every girl may afterwards gain a
 “ livelihood ; as there is not any one who can-
 “ not spin sixteen hanks per day when she leavess
 “ the school, which at the average price of wool-
 “ spinning, produces eight-pence. The remain-
 “ ing ten are employed in spinning line, and in
 “ sewing and knitting. These employments
 “ are changed every three months in the fol-
 “ lowing order : When ten leave the wool-
 “ room, five are employed, the first six weeks
 “ in spinning line, and the second six weeks in
 “ sewing and knitting ; and when this time is
 “ expired, they all return to the wool-room,
 “ and the like number of wool-spinners take
 “ their place ; so that two-thirds of the time of
 “ every girl is occupied in spinning worsted,
 “ and one-third divided between spinning line,

“ sewing, and knitting. Every girl makes her
 “ own clothes and knits her own stockings,
 “ and one pair of mittens ready for the fol-
 “ lowing year.”

It will be inferred, from what has been al-
 ready said, that every Girl has her task set. This
 rule extends, not only to wool-spinning but to
 the whole of her various employments. The
 money she receives for completing her task, or
 for over work, is absolutely her own; liable,
 however, to a deduction of forfeits for misbeha-
 viour, falling short of her work, &c. according
 to a regular printed scale, * so that every one
 knows exactly what she is to expect.

From the time of these arrangements in
 August, 1787, no alteration whatever was made
 until February 17, 1794, when the Ladies
 drew up a paper, which was sent to the Gen-
 tlemen, stating, that in consequence of the strict
 œconomy introduced into the school, they
 thought themselves authorized to request, that
 the Girls might in future be allowed meat three
 days a week instead of only two, as had hitherto
 been allowed, and that the salary of Mr. Har-
 per, who superintends the wool department,
 and who teaches the house girls reading, writing,
 and arithmetic, might be augmented five gu-.

* See Appendix, No. 14.

neas annually; to both of which requests the Gentlemen consented, at the same time voting their thanks to the Ladies.*

In the February of 1795, the Ladies Committee passed a Resolution, that on account of the Matron's good conduct, and in consideration of her advanced age, she should have her choice annually among the Girls whose turn it may be next to leave the School, of any one she might prefer as her assistant, to continue as such one year, with the allowance of 3d. per week wages, being found in clothes, as heretofore, by the Institution. The employment of this Girl, like that of the others, is appropriated, but as it is rather that of general superintendence, under the eye of the Matron, than of any stated work, and as it does not form a part of the regular Establishment, it is not necessary to descend to particulars.

The affairs of the School had now gone on, with what must be deemed, uninterrupted prosperity from the final adjustment of the new Regulations in 1787, till the May of 1796, when it was found necessary to expel five of the oldest Girls, and in the August following, three more, for dishonest, or disorderly conduct. It appeared in the first instance, that they had been

* See Extracts. Appendix, No. 15.

seduced by an unprincipled woman, the Mother-in-Law of one of the Girls, and in the second, by one of their own number, who had herself been previously misled by bad acquaintance. This act of severity was necessary, for the sake of example, however the Ladies have since had the satisfaction of hearing, that five out of the eight, are now in service, and have ever since behaved well.

In the annual account published of the two Schools, these unfortunate Girls were not mentioned, and this for two reasons. First, as it might have given a bad, and therefore a false impression of the general State of the School, which even at that time, notwithstanding this misfortune, (and to similar accidents every Institution of the kind must be liable) was very flourishing; and secondly, because to have made the names of the young delinquents public, would have fixed a stigma on their character, disproportioned to their offence, a stigma which no subsequent good conduct might have been able to efface, and the immediate operation of which would have been to prevent their admission into any decent family, a means more likely than any other, of rectifying what had been amiss in their conduct, and of restoring them to respectability in their humble station. That this decision was right, the good conduct

of five out of the eight, from that time to the present, as already mentioned, abundantly proves.

This instance of forbearance however, on the part of the Ladies, gave rise to a report, which seems to have circulated very generally; that because in the annual printed list for the last three years, the names of only four in each year had appeared, as having been placed in service, that therefore, the Girls must have been kept in the School much longer than was necessary, and that by this means the benefits arising from the Institution to the public at large, were much less extensive than they might otherwise have been. This opinion, so generally circulated, seems at length to have produced its effect on the minds of the Governors themselves, for at a Monthly Meeting in the January of the present year, they desired a conference with a select Committee of the Ladies on this subject.* The Gentlemen formed their judgement from the printed list, in like manner as the judgement of the public had been formed; whereas, if instead of doing this, they had consulted their own admission book,† they would

* See Appendix, No. 16.

† The mode of admission is as follows:—The names of the candidates, their age, place of abode, and the circumstances of their parents or other friends, as far as can be learnt, are set down by

have seen, that twenty had actually been received into the School, instead of only twelve, as they erroneously supposed, in the course of the last three years; and therefore, that the proper subject of inquiry, was not, why so few had been admitted, but rather, what was become of the remaining eight? It being evident, as the number in the School had always remained the same, that eight Girls had been admitted, of whom no account had been given.

In consequence of this message from the Governors, the Ladies held an extraordinary Committee Meeting, at which five of their number * were requested to meet the Delegates from the Gentlemen, which they did accordingly, in the beginning of February, at the Grey Coat School,

by the Lady to whom the application may happen to be made. These lists are from time to time read over at the quarterly Meeting, in order that due inquiry may be made into the truth of the several particulars, and at the Meeting previous to the new election in May, six or seven out of this number, who appear the greatest objects, are selected to be sent to the Gentlemen's Committee, as recommended by the Ladies; out of which, the Gentlemen chuse five, who are admitted into the school.—In future, six will be annually admitted, as may be seen by the new regulations, resulting from the conference between the Governors and the Ladies.

* Viz. Mrs. Salmond, the late Mrs. Swainston, the two Mrs. Withers and Mrs. Gray.

After the Delegates had stated the cause of the discontents that had arisen, namely, that it appeared by the printed list, that only twelve girls had gone to service in the three preceding years, the Ladies answered, by entering into the several particulars respecting those who had been expelled, already enumerated: Shewing from the admission book, that in 1795, six were admitted; in 1796, eleven; and in 1797, three; amounting in all to twenty. It appeared therefore, in fact, that although the Ladies had indeed been obliged by a particular exigence, to depart from a leading principle of the new regulations, (namely, that of sending out a given number every year,) yet that its operation had been precisely the contrary, to what had been apprehended, for, that during this period, five girls more than the stipulated number, had in reality left the school, and that in consequence, five more had been admitted, instead of three less, as had been erroneously conceived.*

These facts being produced, and the subject fully explained, the Delegates declared themselves entirely satisfied as to the principal

* For the particulars of the several differences between the Gentlemen's statement of the numbers apprehended to have been sent out, compared with the actual number in the last three years, as well as of the number admitted, see Appendix, No. 17.

subject of their enquiry ; they also passed many encomiums on the manner in which the School was conducted, approving highly of the order, economy, and perfect regularity which pervades the whole. Still however, they earnestly desired, that no Girl might remain in the School, above the age of fifteen years, and that six might be placed in service every year, instead of five.

In regard to the first of these requests, the Ladies replied, that the greater part being admitted at nine years of age, and continuing in the School seven years, already left it at sixteen. That in a few instances, where Girls had been older at the time of their admission, they had of course been older when they left the school; but that this could not, in particular cases be avoided, without disturbing the general order of the classes, which of the two, would be a far greater evil, * even admitting, as the Gentlemen supposed, that the keeping a Girl in the School till seventeen, was an evil.

That as to sending out six every year, instead of five, it was impossible the Ladies should have

* It ought to be remembered that on preserving the order in which the Girls now regularly take their turn in the various employments and occupations of the School, depends in great measure their being fitted for servants; also, that without this method, it is impossible, even were the Master, Mistress, or Matron, disposed to wish it, that *all* should receive equal advantages.

the least objection to it, any further, than that while the whole number in the School continued what it was at present, this too would interfere with the classes ; that however, if the Governors would consent that the number should be augmented from forty, to forty-two, this might be contrived, by having always twelve, instead of ten, in the capacity of house-girls. To this augmentation, on the report of the Delegates to the Governors, they consented, and in the May of the present year, two more than the accustomed number were admitted, making the whole, forty two.

It was necessary however, in consequence of this arrangement, that some new employment should be contrived for two of the House Girls in rotation, ten being sufficient for the work already appropriated. To have added a Dairy to the Establishment, would, on many accounts have been desirable, but that, after due consideration, was found to be impracticable, in the precincts of a large City ; it was determined therefore, that they should be employed in Spinning Huckaback, a branch of manufacture somewhat out of date, but much inquired after by many Families. They are taught to Spin with both hands, and such is the advantage of general habits of activity and diligence, that several of

them have already attained to considerable proficiency. From the foregoing account, it will appear, that although for the sake of order, simplicity, and equal justice, general principles should not be deviated from in an Institution of this kind, when it can be avoided; yet that exigences may, and probably will arise, when a departure from them may be absolutely necessary; and that therefore, a discretionary power of doing this, must be lodged somewhere. If it be lodged with the Governors of the Charity, they, not having any means of information but through the medium of the Master, Mistress, or Matron, this power will, in fact, be transferred from them to the Master, Mistress, or Matron; and hence, among other reasons, the importance in a Female Charity School, of the constant superintendence of Ladies, who by that means are enabled to form an impartial judgment of their own, from personal observation. As however, some of the inferences drawn from this general remark, have been the subject of considerable debate, may I be allowed to mention a case which certainly ought *not* to be classed among particular exigencies?

A person, we will suppose, on seeing the School, struck with the countenance and man-

ner of some particular Girl, offers to take her into immediate service; it has been urged, that to delay complying with this request, till the regular time of her leaving the School, is at once an act of injustice to the Institution, and to the individual. But let it be considered, that to depart from a general law, which has the good of the whole for its object, on account of an individual, cannot ultimately be a benefit to the Institution: And secondly, that the Girl herself would lose many of the advantages which belong exclusively to the last two years, by such anticipation of her departure from the School: * and moreover, it cannot be ascertained whether she would in fact be more advantageously placed, with a person who forming a hasty judgement from mere outward appearance, desired immediately to hire her as a Servant, than by staying the regular time, and taking her chance among others.

I would observe further, that if it could be hoped that the School would in all future time, be superintended, as it is at present, by Ladies

* It should be remembered, that it is during the two last years that the Girls are taught, and accustomed to, Washing, Ironing, cleaning the House, making Bread, cooking the Victuals, Bleaching Linen, Carding, Spinning, Quilting, &c. &c. and that it is only during this time, that they have the advantage of being taught to write, and receive some instruction in the first rules of Arithmetic.

as judicious, as they are humane, such innovations, accidentally made, might not be equally detrimental to the Institution ; but this must not be reckoned upon, and every wise Legislator (to compare great things with small,) whether of a Nation, or of a Charity School, will so form the laws by which it is to be governed, as to leave as little as may be, to rest upon contingencies.*

* It may not be beside the purpose of this publication, to insert the following remarks, sent me by a friend :—

“ Perhaps on examination it would be found, that the generality of Charity Schools throughout England, especially those intended for the education of Girls, might with more propriety be called decent poor-houses, providing clothing and food.

“ The first, consisting of a decent dress for Sundays, Holidays, and Committee-days ; the second, of a nominal diet table of meat, twice a week.

“ Milk, mixed with water, brown bread ill prepared, or its still worse substitute, bought white bread. On Committee-days, the only ones on which these institutions are inspected, the children appear with washed hands and faces ; and a better dinner and better bread is prepared.”

“ If a Sheet or Sheets for every bed be allowed by the charity, they are taken out of the press, and put upon the Beds on these days, but carefully taken off before night ; and thus are the innocent minds of Youth, early instructed in duplicity, and in the lowest and most shameful methods of avoiding in future, the orders of Masters, Mistresses, and Parents.

“ The same abuses prevail in respect to what they are taught. A few of the quickest, learn to read, write, work with their

But to return. In respect of Religious instruction, the Ladies have made no alteration in the plan laid down by the Founders of the Charity, unless the introduction of some excellent modern publications, by Mrs. Trimmer, and from the Cheap Repository, &c. &c. may be called an alteration. Prayers are read Morning and Evening by the Matron, and the Children attend Divine Service at the established Church, twice every Sunday, and on every Holyday throughout the year. They are also taught the Church Catechism, and the Collects for the day, as is usual in other similar institutions, †

“ needle, wash or knit, but the far greater number are employed
“ solely in spinning wool, line, making pins, or in whatever other
“ employment may be most suitable to the capacity of the child,
“ and therefore most profitable to the Master or Mistress, or most
“ for the advantage of the charity; which, although it ought
“ not to be lost sight of, yet certainly should not interfere with the
“ children being taught what is necessary to fit them for Servants,
“ or for the duties of their stations in after life; or, with their
“ gaining the habits, and enjoying the comforts, of order,
“ economy, and cleanliness, duties, which are peculiarly, indis-
“ pensible in female life.”

† The writer of these papers is far from wishing it to be understood that she considers the common method of committing to memory, Creeds, Catechisms, and Collects, be the principles contained in them what they may, as the best mode, either of conveying instruction, or of impressing the heart with religious sentiments; and had she not been prevented by peculiar circumstances, would certainly have proposed the making trial of a different

and especial care is taken that every Girl shall accompany the worthy Matron to receive the Sacrament, at least once, and frequently twice, before she leaves the School.

Of the success which has attended the exertions of their Patronesses, the request in which the Girls are now held in this City, as Servants, would make it quite unnecessary to say

different method, and would with all cheerfulness have given every assistance in her power, towards putting it in execution. On this subject, how much soever she may differ on some others, she is fortunate in being able to agree with the excellent Author of a late valuable publication, not less to be admired for its eloquence, than for the accurate, alas too accurate, delineation of modern manners which it exhibits, and for the spirit of piety which it breathes: speaking of Religious Instruction in general, and of Prayer in particular, Mrs. Moore says, " If children are *trown* " *exclusively* on the best forms, if they are made to commit them " to memory like a copy of verses, and to repeat them in a dry " customary way, they will produce little effect upon their " minds."—*Strictures on the Modern System of Female Education.* Vol. I. page 289.

I would beg leave to add further, that if the learning to repeat these, be enforced by severity, if it wear the formidable aspect of a task, and if the getting them off encroach upon the hours of play, it is not enough to say that no good is done: and it is well if the disgust by this means excited, may not become so associated with every thing connected with religion, as in after life to indispose the mind to that seriousness of spirit, to that devotedness to God, which is the best consolation and preservative in the difficulties and dangers of the present scene, and the only effectual means of preparation, for that which shall hereafter succeed.

any thing, were it not for the sake of informing those who cannot be acquainted with this fact.

Some are married, and become the decent industrious Mothers of families; others are in service, many still in the places to which they were at first hired, where they are much valued; and all who have left the School for the last few years, shew the greatest attachment to it, and regard the Matron as an affectionate parent, to whom they owe the greatest obligation. The two Assistant Mistresses are now always taken from among the Girls themselves. She who now teaches to read, sew, knit, spin line, &c. is twenty-five years of age; she was first Wool Mistress *seven* years, and was then preferred to her present situation, which she has filled the last two years and half, with the greatest credit to herself, and benefit to the Institution.

D 2



(12)

PARTICULARS RESPECTING THE
Annual Expenditure, Holydays,
QUANTITY OF
FOOD CONSUMED,
CLOTHES ALLOWED, DIET TABLE, AND
ANNUAL EARNINGS.

I HAVE not been able to learn the particulars of the expences of each year, previous to the time when the Ladies undertook the management of the School; but in 1786, the Treasurer offered to pay the sum of 9l. per annum for each Girl, to any Master or Mistress whom they might recommend. The following statement shews the difference of expence on the former plan, and that now adopted:

1786.

L. s. d.

Sum offered by the
Treasurer for the
board of each
Girl - - - 9 0 0

1795, 1796, 1797.

L. s. d.

Average expence
for each Girl, in-
cluding the sum-
mer of 1796,
when the price
of Corn was so
enormously high
as to add to the
expences of that
year, the sum of
40l. 17s. 8d. - 10 0 0

1786.	1795, 1796, 1797.
Average price of Butcher's Meat, per stone - - 0 4 6	Average price of Butcher's Meat, per stone - - 0 6 6
Of best Flour per stone - - - 0 1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Of best Flour (not including the summer of 1796) 0 2 2
Wool for Manufacturing into Clothing, from 8s. to 9s. per stone.	Wool from 10s. to 12s. per stone.
Line for Wearing Apparel and House Linen, from 8d. to 10d. per pound.	Line from 12d. to 15d. per pound.

The price of Milk was so much advanced in these years, of which the average Expenditure is given, that the quantity used in the School cost 4l. per year more, than it did in the year 1794.

The price of Shoes, Soap, and Candles, had advanced since the year 1786, nearly one-third.

Till the year 1787, the Children were allowed Holydays of three complete weeks every year; and they then returned to their friends. This, allowing the Master 9l. for each girl, occasioned a saving of 15l. 17s. 6d. to him, supposing, which is not probable, that the sum of

21. was expended in clothing. The girls were also allowed to visit their friends every Thursday afternoon, and on those days had no Supper at the School. This, at the rate of three farthings for the Supper of each Girl, and deducting the three weeks Holydays, was a saving of 6l. 2s. 6d. annually.

The only Holydays now allowed, when the children are permitted to visit their friends, are the following: The fourth day after Christmas-Day; Easter Eve; Wednesday in Easter Week, and the Afternoon of the day following each Quarterly Meeting of the Ladies Committee. Those Girls who come from the Country, who have Parents or other decent friends at a distance, and have behaved well, and do not go out at other times, are allowed to return home for one week at Whitsuntide,

l. s. d.

After the abolition, therefore, of the Holydays, formerly allowed, the Master must have demanded for the maintenance of Forty Girls through the year - - - 382 0 9

They have actually cost, with the allowance of one additional Dinner of butcher's meat in the week, and with the increased price of provisions and all other articles - - 400 0 0

The Annual difference - - - - - 18 0 0

This difference of expence falls short of the increase of price in three articles of food alone, by 6l. 10s. 2d. for deducting a third of the whole butcher's meat, on ac- count of the additional meat dinner, there still remains an increase of price on this article, equal to	4 11 0
The increase of price of Flour	5 19 2
The increase of price of Milk	4 0 0
Total	24 10 2

The extraordinary price of all other articles, and the expence of the additional Meat Dinner, being counter-balanced by the œconomy of the present plan, is gained to the charity, and would have been saved, if the price of provisions and other articles had remained the same.* It ought also to be observed, that before the Ladies had the superintendence of the School, when the children's clothes were found by the Master and Mistress, that excepting their Sunday dress they had no decent clothing; whereas, since that time, they have been constantly supplied with every thing necessary, for cleanliness and comfort, as well as decency.

*In the above calculation, no notice is taken of the 40l. 17s. 8d. which the extraordinary high price of Corn in the summer of 1796, as already mentioned, cost the Institution, and which, in fact, ought to have been deducted from the average expences of the three years.

From the above statement, it is evident, that the plan of paying all expences immediately from the Fund, where the whole is under proper regulation, is in fact, much more economical, as well as more beneficial to the children in every respect.

For the benefit of any other Institution, which may wish to make the experiment, I subjoin the following particulars :

The quantity of Beef and Mutton, according to the diet table, consumed every week, by forty-four persons—four stone and a half.

Of Bread Flour, consisting of Wheat and Rye mixed—sixteen stone.

Of fine Flour, for puddings, pies, and bread for Saturdays dinner—five stone.

Of skinned Milk—two hundred and forty, eight quarts.

The Weekly Bills are all signed by the Lady who overlooks the whole of the Expenditure.

The particulars which, together, amount to the sum of 10*l.* for each girl, are as follows :

Clothing, in which is included the average expence of Sheets, Towels, and Household linen of every kind; the new Clothes of the five Girls admitted every year; and the extraordinary Clothes allowed for five who annually leave the School, divided by 40 -

Shoes	- - - - -	1	19	0
Food (3d. and nearly one farthing each, per day)	- - - - -	0	17	9
Salaries, to the Matron, Assistant Sewing Mistress, Reading and Writing Master, &c.	- - - - -	5	0	0
Apothecaries Bill	- - - - -	0	2	0
Coals, Soap, Candles, &c.	- - - - -	0	10	6
				<hr/>
Total	- - - - -	10	0	0

The Taxes, expence of Repairs, and the Interest of the Money expended in the Building erected for the reception of the Girls, is not estimated, because these expences are not affected by the arrangements introduced by the Ladies.

The Wardrobe, of every Girl, whilst she continues in the School, consists of the following particulars :

3 Pair of Stockings,	2 Pockets,
2 Pair of Shoes,	2 Gowns,
2 Petticoats,	2 Bedgowns,
2 Shifts,	2 Blue and White Aprons,
2 Pair of Stays,	2 Blue Aprons,

2 Night Caps,	1 Band or Sunday Handker-
2 Blue and White Handker-	chief,
chiefs,	1 Cloak,
2 Hats,	2 Pocket Handkerchiefs,
1 Pair of Garters,	1 Pair of Worsted Mittens,
1 Day Cap,	

In addition to what may be called her Ward-robe, each Girl has the following articles given to her :

A Pair of Scissors,	A Huswife,
A Thimble,	A Work Box,
A Knitting Sheath,	A Work Bag,
A Pincushion,	A Comb and Case.

At Easter she is allowed to have her Scissors ground, or if fairly worn out, to have new ones, and a String to them ; a Pincushion and String ; her Huswife mended, and new stocked with Needles and Thread ; her Thimble changed, if too little, or if worn out, a new one ; her Work Bag repaired and new Strings ; a new Comb, if necessary ; a Knitting Sheath ; new set of Knitting Needles ; and an ounce of Pins ; whatever she uses more than these, must be bought out of her own money. In their leisure hours, many of the older Girls have worked ornamental Samplers, the materials for which they buy with their own money.

If the Writer should be thought to trifle, in enumerating such very minute particulars, let

it be remembered that without descending into minute detail, a complete idea cannot be given of the order which pervades the whole. And if it be taken into the account, insignificant as it may seem, that the secure and appropriate possession of these things, has a tendency to create an increased attachment to the Institution, to improve the happiness of the children, and at the same time to give them more accurate ideas of the sacred nature of whatever can be denominated personal property; * it will be seen, that the consequences resulting even from these very minute arrangements, in respect of their own future conduct as Servants, and as Mothers, may eventually, be of considerable importance.

In the year 1794, forty Girls, (their ages from nine to seventeen years) the Matron, her Assistant, and the two under Mistresses, in all forty-four persons, were found in provisions for 3d. per head per day, 4l. 11s. 3d. per year; according to the following Diet Table; and this included the three feast days, and also extraordinaries for the sick, who are always allowed

* The desirableness of effecting this, will appear more evident, if it be considered, that the ideas of the lower classes, upon this subject, are by no means accurate.

whatever the attending Physician or Apothecary may order.

THE DIET TABLE;

DINNER.

SUNDAY.—Boiled beef or mutton, with cabbage or potatoes. In Summer, sliced lettuce, with treacle and vinegar. Broth for supper.

MONDAY.—Baked flour puddings,* with Yorkshire dip.

TUESDAY.—In Winter, pies of mutton, and potatoes, or ox cheek stew. In Summer, furmenty made of barley and milk.

WEDNESDAY.—Baked flour, or rice puddings.

THURSDAY.—Boiled beef or mutton, with vegetables, as on Sunday.

FRIDAY.—Count Rumford's soup, or grey pea porridge, made with the broth of the day before.

SATURDAY.—White bread, (made with yeast) and milk.

* For the different receipts, see Appendix 18.

BREAKFASTS AND SUPPERS.

Skimmed milk, with bread made of wheat and rye, raised with leaven, except on the Sunday night, as already mentioned.

The average quantity of bread consumed by each Girl, is about half a pound at each meal, but it is not given them by weight, every one has as much as she can eat; and has also a slice of bread at any time of the day, when asked for.

From October to May, their milk is always boiled for breakfast, and thickened with oatmeal (which costs about 1s. per week); boiled milk is found much more nutritive than cold.

On Christmas-Day, Easter Sunday, and Whit-sunday, they have roast beef and plum pudding.

No tea, sugar, butter, eggs, or beer are allowed.

The average earnings of the Girls for the last few years has amounted to 120l. annually, the particulars of which are as follows :

	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
Money earned by spinning Wool	76 8 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 8 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
of which sum paid to the Treasurer		
Deducted for Rewards, carriage of		
Wool, Portage, Postage of Letters,		
pay of the Wool-Mistress and Ma-		
tron's Assistant - - - - -	15 0 0	
	76 8 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	

	. s. d.
Brought forward	76 8 1½
Quantity of Wool, spun for Gowns, Stockings, Mittens, and Woolsey Aprons, would have produced in wages	26 11 11½
Of line spun for Sheets, Towels, and Linen for Wearing Apparel of every sort	17 0 0
Total	<u>120 0 0</u>

The Girls also card and spin what is called the *Nippins* or Waste Wool, for Petticoats; they boil and bleach all the linen; make and mend all their own clothes; knit all their stockings and mittens; and quilt their old gowns into petticoats. This not only teaches them the method of doing these things, and accustoms them to habits of economy and order, but ought to be reckoned as so much work done. It should be observed, moreover, that in the last ten years, the children have spun, over and above the quantity of wool and line wanted for their Annual Clothing, as much more as has been sufficient for the clothing of two complete years before-hand;* and that the price of the materials, and the expence of manufacturing

* It is necessary to have this stock before hand, as one set of clothes must be ready cut out, against the time when the new ones are delivered; and the materials for the clothes of the following year, must be spun ready for the weavers to manufacture, and for the linen to be received at the School in time for bleaching, in the course of the summer.

them have been paid for, and incorporated from time to time, in the Annual Expenditure: So that the average yearly expence for Clothes, has in fact, been nearly one-fifth less than the sum which has been stated.

The Children always give over work at six in the evening, whether their tasks be finished or not, and their hours of play are never intruded upon.

The rules of the School, detail the duties of the Matron and Assistant, already enumerated, and regulate the occupations of the children, their hours of labor, and of play, according to the plan described in these papers; and these rules are constantly adhered to, with the greatest punctuality.

* The Writer omitted to mention in the proper place, that the children are never allowed to borrow any thing of each other; a practice which is extremely common, and always productive of mischief, even in Schools of a much higher order.



mon: but it is not fit to be used for any
other purpose. It is not fit to be used for any
and, especially, not for any other purpose. It is not fit to be
used for any other purpose. It is not fit to be used for any other purpose.

It is not fit to be used for any other purpose. It is not fit to be used for any other purpose.

It is now to be considered what
is the best method of
improving our city to avoid such弊害.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

~~To establish a friendly society to collect and
disburse money for the relief of the poor.~~
THIS Institution, in common with many
others, consists of Honorary and General Mem-
bers, who contribute equally towards the Fund; ;
but with this peculiarity, that we have also a
second Fund, formed by the contributions of
the Honorary Members solely, for the disposal
of which they are not accountable to the So-
ciety at large; and the object of which, is the
relief of the Members in any particular ex-
igence, to which the relief of the first Fund
cannot extend.

In giving the little History of this Institution,
I shall adopt the method already pursued
in the foregoing account of the Spinning and
Grey Coat Schools.

It has been mentioned that the plan was not regularly put in execution, till August 1788; an outline of it, however, was drawn up and printed in the beginning of that year.* The peculiar object of this Institution, being sufficiently explained in what has already been said upon this subject; and in the Paper inserted in the Appendix already referred to, I shall proceed to give an account of its commencement.

At our first meeting, twenty Ladies presented themselves as Honorary Members: and eight young Girls from the Grey Coat, and seven from the Spinning School were admitted General Members, paying 2s. 6d. each for their entrance; Miss Baines, (now Mrs. Sawyer) and myself being Stewardesses.

The introduction to the first set of Rules, was drawn up with the view of explaining the particular object of the Institution, and mention is also there made of the second Fund above adverted to, formed by the sole contribution of the Honorary Members.†

* See Appendix, No. 19.

† See Appendix, No 20.

General Members, not taken from either of the Schools, whose wages amounted to 3*l*. per annum, were to contribute 1*s.* 6*d.* per quarter; and those whose wages fell short of it, 1*s.* per quarter, till their wages should reach that sum. The benefits were, a weekly allowance of four shillings to every Member confined to her bed by sickness, two shillings for slighter indispositions, and one shilling per week, if admitted into any Hospital, with the limitation, however, in respect of all the three payments, to the term of six months at one time. These rules also provided a reward of five shillings for every Girl who had continued a Member, and behaved well, for the space of three years; and the sum of twenty shillings, on the same terms, at the expiration of seven years.* Moreover, every Honorary Member had the privilege of introducing into the Society, one young woman who had not been educated in either of the Schools. †

Our Society flourished in respect to the accession of Honorary Members from the very first, beyond our expectation or hope, but we have had the mortification from time to time of seeing frequent secessions among our young women;

* See Appendix, No. 21.

† See Appendix, No. 22.

owing in some instances I believe to bad advisers, in others, to the want of sufficient comprehension of mind, to see the wisdom of relinquishing a small present benefit, for the sake of a greater, but more distant advantage, which, when in health, they suppose they may never want.

When we drew up our first rules, in which the rewards of five shillings, and of twenty shillings, were promised for good conduct, we were guilty of an error, which if I mistake not, will be found to have been committed at the commencement of many such societies; namely, that of considering rather what might be desirable, than what the Fund could actually allow. We did not consider that the deduction of 1l. 5s. from the first seven years contribution of each Member, even in cases where 6s. per year had been paid from her first entrance into the Society, would, in fact, deduct from her contribution for that period, more than one half;* and, that in a case where the wages of a

	L. s. a.
* Contributions for seven years, at 6s.	- 2 0
Entrance - - - - -	0 2 6
	<hr/>
	2 4 6
Presents from the Fund to be deducted -	1 5 0
Actual Contribution - - - - -	0 19 6

young woman during that time had not risen to 31. and consequently her annual payments to the fund had been no more than 4s.; that her actual contribution would not have amounted to quite 10d. annually.* Moreover, we found, by experience, that the making the sum to be contributed, depend on the circumstances of higher or lower wages, supplied a temptation to prevarication, and subjected the Society to imposition. We determined, therefore, whenever it should be necessary, to draw up a new set of rules, to remedy these errors.

This necessity occurred in the year 1794, when it was judged expedient for rendering the institution permanent, to put it under the protection of the Act passed in the 33d year of the present reign, *for the encouragement and relief of Friendly Societies.*

The alterations made in our rules, were as follows :

	L. s. d.
* Contributions for seven years, at 4s.	1 8 0
Entrance - - - - -	0 2 6
	<hr/>
	1 10 6
Presents from the Fund to be deducted -	1 5 0
	<hr/>
Actual Contributions - - - - -	0 5 6

1st. Instead of making the sum annually contributed to depend on the wages of the contributor, we determined that those Members who were taken from either of the Schools, should not have the privilege of contributing only 4s. longer, than the first two years of their being in service; and that after that period, they should contribute 1s. 6d. per quarter, in common with other Members, whatever might be the amount of their wages.

2dly. That the presents of 5s. and 20s. should be withdrawn, but by way of some compensation, and especially as many of our Members were now married, and often put to considerable difficulties during the time of lying-in,*

* Some of the fatal consequences that frequently happen to poor women in this situation, which a very small pecuniary assistance judiciously afforded, might prevent; are stated by Dr. Ferriar, of Manchester, in the following quotation from his Medical Histories:—"A young couple live very happily, till the woman is confined by her first lying-in. The cessation of her employment then produces a deficiency in their income, at a time when expences unavoidably increase. She, therefore, wants many comforts, and even the indulgencies necessary to her situation: she becomes sickly, droops, and at last is laid up by a fever, or pneumonic complaint: the child dwindles and frequently dies. The husband, unable to hire a nurse, gives up most of his time to attendance on his wife and child; his wages are reduced to a trifle; vexation and want render

him

provision was made for their receiving 10s. from the fund at that time, on application to the Stewardesses.

3dly. The weekly pay, if admitted into any hospital was augmented to 1s. 6d. And

4thly. The Honorary Members had the additional privilege of recommending, each one Member every year, to the Society.

In other respects, the contributions and benefits, remained as they were originally.

Neither in our first, nor in our second set of rules, have we made any allowance for Funerals, according to the usual practice of such Societies ; for it appeared to us, of much greater moment, to provide for the exigencies

“ him at last diseased ; and the whole family sometimes perishes, from the want of a small timely supply, which their future industry would have amply repaid to the public.” Dr. Ferriar goes on to say, “ If such misery occurs even when the master of the family is industrious and sober, it is easy to imagine the distress of those unfortunate creatures, who depend on a brutal debauchée. The injuries which defenceless women undergo in those situations, are too terrible for description : I have met with many instances of incurable diseases, occasioned by kicks or blows from the husband, in his paroxysms of drunkenness.” *Ferriar’s Medical Inquiries, Vol. II page 207.* This last quotation, although not quite in point, yet being not altogether beside some of the objects of this little work, I could not resist the desire of inserting it here.

of the living, than to make provision for the interment of the dead. I have, however, been since convinced, that in this decision, we did not sufficiently take into consideration, the feelings and prejudices of that class, for whose use such Societies are particularly established ; and I am not certain, whether independent of these, some provision should not be made for the expence of Funerals, even on the very principles of the institutions themselves. In a subsequent chapter I mean more fully to consider this subject.

I have already mentioned, that the allowance of ten shillings to a Member when lying-in, was not only suggested by the distress to which poor Married Women in such circumstances are frequently reduced, but that it was likewise intended as a compensation for having withdrawn the rewards for good behaviour, promised in the first set of rules. This, however, is a compensation to the Married Women only, and consequently, being unequal in its operation, is a defect in our present rules.

In order to attach the young Women more generally to the institution, it was thought expedient in the year 1794, to institute a Procession, which should take place on the 15th of May, once in two years, when the whole Society,

Honorary as well as General Members, should attend Divine Service at the Cathedral in this City, distinguished by a green Ribband placed in their hats, and afterwards be regaled with Tea and Cake, in a room engaged for the purpose; the whole expence to be paid by the Honorary Members, from their private Fund. The Children belonging the two Schools, and their Mistresses, also attend upon this occasion, and follow in procession.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE INSTITUTION.

Honorary Members	-	56	General Members	-	102
Lost by Death	-	3	Seceded	-	63
	—		Dead	-	6
Total since the commencement of the Institution	-	59	Dismissed	-	9
	—		Total admitted	-	180
Remain	56		Remain	102	

Present Members of the Society—158.

STEWARDESS FOR THE MONEY SUBSCRIBED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GREY COAT GIRLS AND SPINNING GIRLS,

From June 1786, to August, 1788—Mrs. Salmond.

STEWARDESSES, AFTER THE SOCIETY ASSUMED
ITS PRESENT FORM :

From August 1788, to May 1794—Mrs. Cappe, Miss Baines.

From May 1794, to May 1796—Mrs. Cappe, Miss Hasell.

From 1796, to 1797—Miss Hasell, Mrs. Dr. Withers.

From 1797, to 1798—Miss Hasell, Mrs. Withers.

From 1798, to 1799—Mrs. Withers, Miss J. Fountayne.

1799—Miss J. Fountayne, Mrs. Gray.

—
The following is a Statement of the several Sums Received and Expended in the General Fund, from August 1788 to November 1799.

RECEIVED.				EXPENDED.				Savings.				Rent and Clerk.			
<i>Received by General Members.</i>	<i>By Honorary Members.</i>	<i>By Interest on the whole.</i>	<i>Sickmef.</i>	<i>Prefects.</i>	<i>Lying- In.</i>	<i>Contingents.</i>	<i>Clerk.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>							
1738 2 13 0	6 0 0	2 6 0	1 0 0	1 12 0	1 14 1	0 2 5	14 11	18 18 11	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0 15 0
1789 6 0 0	7 4 0	2 6 0	1 0 0	1 12 0	1 14 1	0 2 5	14 8 4	14 8 4	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0 10 6
1790 7 8 6	8 2 0	1 0 0	1 12 0	1 14 0	1 14 1	0 2 5	14 11	14 11	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0 10 6
1791 8 2 6	8 14 0	1 12 0	1 12 0	1 14 0	1 14 1	0 2 5	13 4 7	13 4 7	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0 10 6
1792 8 14 6	8 14 0	1 4 9	1 4 9	1 10 5	1 10 5	5 8 3	18 16 3	18 16 3	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0 15 9
1793 10 18 8	9 6 0	1 19 0	1 19 0	1 19 0	1 19 0	5 8 3	15 6	15 6	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	0 10 6
1794 14 10 6	10 10 0	6 12 0	6 12 0	6 12 0	6 12 0	2 0 0	12 19	12 19	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	0 11 0
1795 18 17 6	10 16 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	25 7	25 7	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	2 12 6
1796 16 10 0	14 8 0	15 5 6	15 5 6	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	12 4	12 4	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	Rent	2 12 6
1797 19 8 6	15 12 0	13 9 0	13 9 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	8	8	Clerk	Clerk	Clerk	Clerk	Clerk	Clerk	0 10 6
1798 21 19 0	16 10 0	8 17 6	8 17 6	2 0 6	2 0 6	2 0 6	25 1	25 1	Rent & Clerk	10 0					
1799 26 2 0	16 16 0	15 0 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	31 8	31 8	Rent & Clerk	8 3					
161 4 8 132 12 0	33 7 1 68 5 2 6	28 10 6	28 10 6	13 43 6	13 43 6	213 3 4	19 9 3	19 9 3							

<i>Total Received.</i>	<i>Total Expended.</i>	<i>Actual saving.</i>
<i>L. s. d.</i>	<i>L. s. d.</i>	<i>L. s. d.</i>
By General Members 161 4 8	Sick allowance 68 5 0	
By Honorary Members 132 12 0	Lyings-in.. 8 10 6	
Interest on the above... 33 7 1	Presents ... 6 2 2	
	Rent & Clerk 19 9 3	
	Contingencies 13 13 6	
327 3 9	116 0 5	211 3 4

STATEMENT of the FUND of the SOCIETY,

<i>Laid out in Stock. Amount of Stock.</i>	<i>Cash.</i>
<i>L. s. d.</i>	<i>L. s. d.</i>
1794 - - 67 2 6	100 0 0
1796 - - 51 0 0	75 0 0
1797 - - 27 0 0	50 0 0
1798 - - 24 5 0	50 0 0
1799 - - 26 11 3	50 0 0
	15 4 7
Total 195 18 9	325 0 0
	Total 15 4 7

BELONGING TO THE GENERAL FUND,

At the close of the Year 1799.

	<i>L. s. d.</i>
In the Three per Cent. Consols	325 0 0
In Cash	15 4 7

It ought to be observed, that according to the present rules, the rewards for good conduct being discontinued, the money which has been so expended should not be reckoned in an estimate that merely respects the future. Subtracting therefore the sum of 6l. 2s. 2d. the amount of the rewards, from 116l. os. 5d. the (sum expended) the remainder, 109l. 18s. 3d. bears very little more than the proportion of one third to the sum received. We must expect indeed that the claims on the Fund for Lyings-in, will increase, and that as the Members advance in years, the Claimants on the Sick List will also increase, yet, as there will every year be an accession of young Members to our Society who will equally contribute their share, and whose demands upon the Fund for some time will probably be small; I apprehend that the difference in our expences, compared with our numbers, between the earlier and later periods of the Institution, will not be so considerable, as where, from the first, the number is limited, and consists of Persons who have already attained to years of maturity. It ought also to be taken into the account that the sum now in the Funds, will annually bring, in future, 9l. 15s. od. interest, which is more than equal to the annual contribution of thirty-two additional Honorary Members.

ON THE
PROPOSED

Alterations of the Rules,

INTERSPERSED

WITH GENERAL REMARKS

ON

SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

TWO defects in our present Rules have been already noticed, namely, the want of an allowance for funerals, and of some compensation to the unmarried Members, for the greater advantages extended to those who are married. I go on to state some other defects, which escaped us when the last Rules were drawn up, and some, that at the time were seen, but which, lest the Fund should be unequal to the increased demand, we did not then dare to rectify.

But before doing this, I would beg leave to obviate any objection against a second alteration, arising from the apparent want of stability it may give to our Laws, by observing ; that, until actual experience has supplied sufficient data on which to make calculations, more accurate than those on which either our own Society, or any other which I have yet seen, is founded, it will be impossible, unless alterations be sometimes made, ever to bring such Institutions to much perfection. I admit however, that alterations should not be made lightly, nor until the subjects to which they relate, have been duly weighed.

It has been stated that our original plan had principally in view the patronage and benefit of the Girls educated in the Spinning and Grey Coat Schools. However, when the first Rules were drawn up, the original promoters having been joined by many other Ladies, some of whom had not been particularly connected with these Schools, it was thought right that every Honorary Member should have the privilege of introducing into the Society, one young Woman not taken from these Schools. This privilege, so equitable in itself, was not likely to produce any effects that should alter the plan of the Institution ; but when the Rules were altered in 1794, it was inadvertently extended to the

power of recommending one such Member every year, the consequence of which would be, if every Honorary Member should avail herself of it, that the number of Girls admitted, who had not been educated in either of the Schools, would be more than four times the number annually taken from them; and consequently, either from its numbers the Society would at length be quite unmanageable, or, no more, even from the Schools, could be admitted into it.

We were led into this error, from a desire of extending the benefits of our institution as widely as possible; not reflecting, that this end had been better attained by promoting separate Friendly Societies, into which every healthy young Woman, of good character, within a certain district, might be admitted.

Again, instead of holding out the prospect of exemption from any further contribution to the Fund, after a Member has continued such for forty years, as we have done in our 19th rule, it had been better to have proposed that an annuity should take place at that period. Till some provision is made by such Institutions for granting relief in old age, highly beneficial as they now are, they do not completely accom-

plish the object at which they aim, namely, that of precluding the necessity of parish assistance, in all ordinary cases. Provision for this, has been made in some of the Clubs among the Men, particularly at Sunbury, in Middlesex, under the patronage of the worthy Vicar of that place, who has accompanied the printed account of the several particulars, with an excellent Discourse on the principles, temper, and duties of Christians, and with a Dissertation no less excellent, on the state of the poor, and the means of improving it.*

Among the projected improvements in the rules of our Society, that of annuities in old age, holds a distinguished place. The writer of these papers, in common with some others, who have carefully considered the subject, made an effort some months ago to introduce these improvements; but as their proposals were negatived in the Committee, they did not bring them forward to be voted for by the Society at large. As, however, I am persuaded, that those by whom our proposals were negatived, as well as ourselves, have the good of the Society at heart, I shall here state what the principal of these proposals were; believing that at some future

* See Religious and Philanthropic Tracts, by James Cowe, M. A. Vicar of Sunbury, Middlesex. Printed for J. Robson, New-Bond-street, and E. Rivington, St. Paul's Church-yard.

time, when their utility is seen, they will be adopted; and also with the hope, that by this means some hints may be taken, which may be of use in similar Institutions.

Our expences having hitherto very little exceeded one-third of the Contributions, we proposed, in the first place, the following alteration of the 11th Rule. *

That the Weekly Allowance of 2s. whether paid from the first, or commencing after the time allowed for the Weekly Contribution of 4s. might be prolonged for the term of eighteen months; and that, a power should be lodged in the Committee, to prolong the allowance even beyond that period in cases of peculiar distress, provided the state of the Fund at that time should admit of such prolongation. That the clause, prohibiting further assistance for the space of one twelvemonth, after payment of the greater or lesser allowance for the length of time promised in that Rule, should be expunged.

In the second place, that an allowance should be made for Funerals, and on this subject two Schemes were proposed for consideration.

* See a copy of the present Rules in which these alterations were proposed, Appendix, No. 23.

The first, that the sum allowed should bear proportion to the number of years which the deceased had been a Member, according to the following Scale.*

	L. s. d.
On having been a Member 5 years	0 10 6
10 years	1 1 0
15 years	1 11 6
20 years	2 2 0
25 years	2 12 6
30 years	3 3 0
35 years	3 13 6
40 years	4 4 0

By the establishment of this gradation, the friends of every Member who had been such for five years, would on her decease receive about one-third of the whole, which such Member had contributed; and thus they would all be equal, in respect of the only event which is not contingent, and to which, all are alike subject.

*It has always struck me, as a manifest injustice, that the friends of a Member who may have contributed to the Fund, only one year, should receive, on her death, the same, as if she had been a Member thirty or forty years. If it be objected, that on this plan a Member must have been such for the space of fifteen years, before her friends would receive a sum sufficient to defray the expences of her funeral, let it be answered, that in all similar Societies, in which the sum paid on these occasions is sufficient from the first for this purpose, the rest of the Members are called upon for an additional subscription. In an Institution of this kind among the Men in this City, called the Union Society, where one shilling is paid by every Member towards a Funeral; the average yearly addition to the subscription, is about six shillings—it consists of 300 Members.

This arrangement, however, I would propose, should be subject to the following exception: That the sum a deceased Member may have received previous to her death in the way of annuity, to the amount of 2l. 12s. 6d. shall be deducted from the sum of 4l. 4s. to which her friends would otherwise have been entitled; but, that whatever sum may have been received in annuity, the friends shall always have a claim upon the Fund for 1l. 11s. 6d. for the purpose of the Funeral.

SECOND SCHEME.

That on the death of a Member, who has been such for two years, the sum of two guineas should be paid to the nearest surviving relatives, and that every Member who has been such for that time, should contribute her quota towards replenishing the Fund, in proportion to the number of such Members, of which the Society should at that time consist.

Thus, 6d. each, when the number of Members who have been in the Society two years, amounts to eighty-four, 5d. when it amounts to one hundred and one, and so on, according to the following table. The surplus above the sum of 2l. 2s. in the intermediate steps, to be thrown into the Fund.

SCALE of CONTRIBUTION to raise 21. 1. 2s.
for Funerals, bearing proportion to the number of Members:

	L. s. d.		L. s. d.		L. s. d.
84 at 6d.	2 2 0	126 at 4d.	2 2 0	252 at 2d.	2 2 0
round 5d.	2 2 0	168 at 3d.	2 2 0	504 at 1d.	2 2 0

Below is a list of the above contributions, and the sum proposed for the same.

THIRD PROPOSAL.

That instead of the words "over and above all the benefits arising from this Institution," in the 18th Rule, be substituted, for the sake of greater precision, *and if such Member should continue ill, on the expiration of one month after delivery, she shall be entitled to the same Weekly Allowance as in any other illness.*

FOURTH PROPOSAL.

That in future, the Honorary Members should each have the privilege of introducing into the Society one young woman and no more, not educated in either of the Schools, according to the law established by the first set of rules.

FIFTH PROPOSAL.

That a certain sum be set apart and suffered to accumulate for annuities to Members who

shall have been such for the space of forty years.

If the second Scheme were adopted of allowing 2l. 2s. for Funerals, (the Members contributing towards the expence in the proportion proposed) there would be no deduction whatever from the Fund on that account: if the first, which I should rather recommend, the deduction would still fall considerably short of one of the two remaining thirds of the money received, inasmuch as the friends of those only, who happened to die exactly at the several

It has been objected, that as some who have entered very young, might still, at the expiration of that term, be able to work, it would be better to fix a particular age for the commencement of annuities—60 for instance. In answer, I would say, that the more equal the proportion which the advantages arising from such a Society can be made to bear, to the money paid into the Fund by each individual, the more perfect the Institution. Let it also be considered, that were the annuities to be regulated by the age of the individual, still, whatever period should be fixed upon, as the infirmities under which they are meant to give support, are extremely varied, both as to the period of their commencement, and as to the degree in which they are felt, some persons being more able to maintain themselves at 70, than others at 55; the objection arising from the different exigencies of the persons who would be entitled to this benefit, remains equally unremoved on either plan. But these inequalities are no other than what must always result from general Laws, of the great utility of which upon the whole, notwithstanding these partial inequalities, no doubt can be entertained.

periods when the ascending scale is increased, would receive in that proportion. More than one-third, therefore, of the money contributed, would still remain to meet the increased expense arising from the proposal of prolonging the Weekly Benefits beyond their present term, and the contingency of greater demands on account of sickness, at a more advanced period of the Institution.

To obviate, however, intirely any objection to the setting aside an appropriate sum for annuities, arising from the possibility that what should remain might be unequal to the demands of the sick, a power should be lodged in the Committee, in case of any extraordinary emergency, to take such portion of the sum so set apart, as at the time might be wanted.

In respect to the annuity to be allowed each individual, I do not see the possibility of our forming any calculations at present, which can attain to any thing like certainty,* and therefore nothing specific should be held out by the Rules.

*In Societies where the number of Members is determinate, (which when they can be so constituted, is always desirable) perhaps this may be practicable when experience shall have supplied sufficient data on which to calculate the probabilities of survivorship.

Suppose the annuities were to begin with twenty shillings, and could be increased in a regular Scale, thus,

	£. s. d.
Members of 40 years standing	1 0 0
of 45 years	1 10 0
of 50 years	2 0 0

Subject, however, to the following regulation: That whatever sum or sums such Member might formerly have received, during lying-in, should be deducted from the annuity, to which she would otherwise have been entitled. Thus, if she have received 10s. twice, and the allowance were to begin with 20s. then her annuity would not commence till she had been a Member 41 years, and so on in proportion. A regulation like this, would do a good deal towards putting the Single Women on an equal footing with the Married ones, would be a considerable saving to the Annuity Fund, and would operate as a check upon the Married Members, to prevent their applying for the 10s. allowance, except in cases of real necessity. The deductions from the sum to be given at Funerals, to which the friends of an annuitant, would otherwise have been entitled, has been already mentioned.

It has been suggested, that annuities should be granted for life, in case of blindness or pre-

manent lameness, at whatever period the calamity might take place. But I think it will be seen, upon due consideration, that Institutions like these, however adequate to provide against ordinary calamities, can never extend to extraordinary ones, neither does the principle on which they are founded, require it. For, were it to happen, that *several* such instances occurred, the Fund would be ruined; were they very rare, then the other objection applies, namely, that what would contribute to the comfort and happiness of many, (the proposed annuity in old age for instance) ought not be sacrificed for the sake of a very few. If any such instances should occur in our Society, they would be proper objects of the Second, or Private Fund.



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**THE STATE OF
THE SECOND FUND,
OF ITS
USE AND APPROPRIATION,**

	<i>L. s. d. L. s. d.</i>
THE sum total received into this Fund, since the commencement of the Institution in 1788 - -	15 15 10
Expended, in Donations to Members under particular distress, to which the General Fund could not apply; in Expences on Procession Days; in Donations towards Funerals; and in subscribing to the County Hospital and City Dispensary for the use of sick Members - - - - -	58 8 8½
In the rewards of 5s. and 20s. promised by the first Rules, to those Members, who having entered the Society in expectation of them, might have conceived themselves injured if they had not been given* - - - - -	24 12 0
In the Bank - - - - -	83 0 8½
	<hr/>
	68 15 2½

* This expence will not occur again.

Hitherto, the money given from this Fund, has not been subject to any regular plan. When an Honorary Member mentions a particular case to the Committee, also the sum she deems adequate to the emergence; the question of what should be given, is put to the vote, and decided by a majority. In future, perhaps it would be desirable to draw up a few Rules, or general outline, for the use of the Committee, subject, however, to such regulations and deviations, as should at any time seem expedient to the majority.

Were this plan adopted, I would propose,

First, That any Member in necessitous circumstances, afflicted by blindness, or permanent lameness, should from time to time receive such Donations as should be approved of by a majority of the Committee.

That on the long illness, or death of a Husband, or Parent, whom the Member may have assisted in supporting, such aid may be afforded, as necessity may require, and the state of the Fund allow.

That so many baskets of Child-Bed Linen should be prepared, as would be required to furnish every Member who might apply for them, with necessaries for herself and infant for

the space of one month. The several articles to be returned clean to the Stewardesses, or to some others of the Committee who might take this office upon themselves, at the expiration of that time.

That the friends of every Member, dying before the period when the allowance for Funerals from the General Fund, amounts to one guinea, should receive 10s. 6d. from this Fund.

The importance of a Second Fund, formed by the contributions of Honorary Members solely, is so obvious, that much needs not to be added in its favor. Indeed, without such an appendage, these Institutions can never fully accomplish the objects at which they aim. If persons in moderate circumstances, such as Farmers, lesser Shop-keepers, &c. as well as the more affluent, would join their poorer neighbours in such kind of associations, they would find it answer to them even in a pecuniary way; for the expence of so doing would fall far short of what they are now *obliged* to pay, as the poor-rates would decrease,* in proportion to the increase of these Societies.

* This has actually happened at Sunbury, in Essex, where, however, the Society is more expensive to the Members, and does not embrace so many objects, as if it were formed upon the plan which I would here beg leave to recommend.—See *Philanthropic Tracts*, already mentioned, page 68.

Moreover, Institutions of this kind, thus constituted, would be highly favourable in their moral influences upon all the parties concerned. The poor might by this means be relieved, without being too much degraded;* they would know that they have a character to lose, and they would feel more gratitude, for assistance voluntarily bestowed, than for an equal provision to which the law of their country entitles them. The affluent, or persons in more easy circumstances, by becoming better acquainted with the real wants of extreme indigence, would have their benevolent affections more powerfully engaged; a more friendly intercourse would be kept up among the different ranks in society, and by means of a private Fund, the donations from which should be in some measure discretionary, the Honorary Members might always have great influence over the others, which, if wisely and kindly used, would be highly conducive to the interests of virtue in all.

* The writings of the benevolent Count Rumford, and of some others, have, I think, shewn clearly, that much of the wretchedness, and many of the vices of the lower classes in most of the civilized Countries in Europe, may be attributed to their extreme degradation. Speaking of the state of Morals in Pennsylvania, the Duke de Liancourt says, "Criminal offences are rare, some thefts excepted, which are generally committed by people lately arrived from Europe, brought up in ignorance and penury, and whose morals generally improve as they acquire a small property of their own." *Travels in North America*, by the Duke de la Rouchefoucault Liancourt, page 61.

If industry, honesty, sobriety, and chastity, in both sexes were uniformly patronized in these Societies, and every Member notoriously offending in any of these particulars, were expelled from them, begging, or application for parish relief would seldom be resorted to, but in cases where all sense of shame is destroyed; and such persons would be very proper inmates of work-houses: Having shewn that they were incapable of conducting themselves, it would be kind, as well as wise, that those who maintain, should also have some authority over them.

I do not see why Honorary Members, although not originally intending to reap any pecuniary advantage, should not in case of reverse of fortune be intitled to relief as well as others; and if they have been such for many years, it would be but just that their allowance in sickness and old age should be proportionably greater. Ceasing, however, to be Honorary Members, and no longer contributing towards the Second Fund, they could not in that case have a vote in the disposal of it.

Should the question be asked, why the writer of these papers, in common with some other Ladies who agree with her on the subject, have been so anxious to bring forward the question of Annuities at present, when it is admitted

that a more accurate judgment might be formed of what the Fund could allow some years hence? Let it be answered, that as they will probably all of them, be removed from the present scene, long before the period when it is proposed that Annuities should take place, they have wished, whilst it was yet in their power, not only to impress others with their views of the importance of affording this relief, but moreover, to take such steps, as should hereafter ensure the trial being made. The very sudden and lamented death of one of their coadjutors already mentioned, younger, and apparently more likely to survive than themselves, has not lessened this wish, and they do not see a reason, so long as any specific sum is not promised, why this alteration in the Rules of the Society, together with some others that have been proposed, should be longer delayed.



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POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE these Papers were written, I have been informed of the following particulars of a Female Friendly Society, or Benefit Club in this City, consisting of Fifty very poor Women, which has been instituted 30 years. The subscription is 1s. per Month, and 1s. on the Death of every Member. The allowance in Sickness, originally was 5s. per Week, but now, on account of the deficiency of the Fund, it is reduced to 3s. Frequently the Box has been shut up in order that the Fund might be replenished, and during that time, no Member could have any relief, whatever might be her distress. They have, however, constantly allowed 2l. on the death of a Member, for the Funeral, and 3l. the following week to her next nearest Relatives; and the Rules particularly order, that a Velvet Pall shall be held over the Coffin. The Society also allows 2l. on the decease of the Husband of every Member.

A great calamity has just befallen these poor Women. The Landlord of a Public-House where they had assembled many years, to pay their subsciptions, and where the box was kept, prevailed upon them, at different times, to lend him the sum of 80l. being nearly the whole of their little Fund, a friend being bound with him for the payment. In the course of the last week, this man is become insolvent, and his Bonds-Man is dead. They have employed an Attorney, to apply to the Executors of the deceased Bonds-Man, but it is to be feared, they will lose a considerable part of their property, if they do not lose the whole.

The poor Woman who gave me this account, is now above 50 years of age; she was early left a Widow with four young Children, whom she has supported by her own efforts, principally by keeping a common mangle. Her Daughters are grown up, her two Sons are apprentices, and she is still obliged to supply them with clothes, and to wash for them. She has been a Member sixteen years, during which time she has never taken any thing from the box; and she told me, that she had often deposited her shilling there, when she had not another in the world.

It is evident, from this little narrative, that there are many, even in the lowest stations, who would prefer being supported by their own exertions, however painful or laborious, to parish relief.

It appears also, that to secure the means of a decent Funeral, is considered by them as an object of the first importance. My readers will smile at the mention of the Velvet Pall; but is not the principle on which it is founded, inherent in human-nature? Has not the love of fame, led other minds, in other circumstances, to the achievement of what have been called, often falsely indeed, the greatest actions? And would it not be wiser to aim at the proper regulation of this principle, than to attempt the extirpation of it?*

I would observe, in the last place, the great importance of Honorary Members to the prosperity of these little Societies. Is it not exceedingly to be regretted, that the praise-worthy efforts of these poor Women, the far greater part of whom are now much advanced in years, should, at last have proved abortive, merely from the want of such patronage?

* We have lately had great reason to believe, that one principal cause of the frequent secessions from our Society, is the want of an allowance for Funerals.

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APPENDIX.

No. 1.

PAPERS RESPECTING THE SPINNING SCHOOL.

*Donations to a Fund, for teaching the Girls employed in
the Hemp Manufactory to READ, October, 1782.*

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Rev. Mr. Lindsey,		Brought over	7 7 0
London	2 2 0	Mr. Haxby	1 1 0
Mrs. Eammonson,		Rev. Mr. Cappe	0 10 6
Berwick	1 1 0	Mrs. Anne Morritt	0 10 6
Rev. Mr. Richardson	1 1 0	Mr. Mortimer	0 10 6
Mr. Gray	1 1 0	Mrs. Thompson	0 10 6
Mr Greame	1 1 0	Anonymous	0 10 6
Mr. Bulmer	1 1 0	Miss Hopwood	0 5 0
	<hr/> 7 7 0		<hr/> 11 5 6

No. 2.

EXTRACTS FROM THE FIRST PRINTED ANNUAL ACCOUNT OF THE SPINNING SCHOOL,

At the close of the Year 1785.

IT is well known that the object of this Institution, is to offer the means of an industrious and virtuous education to the children of such poor parents as are themselves unable to attend to them, and cannot afford the ex-

G

pence of having them taught by others; such as the children of mothers who go out to wash, &c. which in this City is the occupation of the greater part of the lower classes.

Should it be objected, that if the children of the poor are better taught and educated, they will become so aspiring, that we shall have no lower servants; it may be asked, should we be worse served if our domestics were sober, industrious, honest, and obedient, the ends at which this Institution aims; and which would be the effects of minds rightly directed, and of virtuous habits early formed? And again, although it is allowed that, great acquirements would mislead and unfit these children for their station, yet are they less likely to fill it reputably and contentedly for being taught to make and mend their Clothes, to knit their own Stockings, and to Spin when they have leisure from other employments?—At this time of day it will hardly be urged as an objection, that they are taught to read.

The Managers of this Charity having had the plan to *form*, have been obliged from time to time to make several alterations in it, they are sensible that it is still capable of many improvements, and they will be very thankful to any one who will suggest any such to them. They are fully convinced that some Institution of this kind is much wanted in this City, where great numbers of the children of the poor are in a wretched state.

The Ladies who have conducted this Charity, think themselves much obliged by the

confidence which the subscribers at large have reposed in them. The money already contributed, has been faithfully applied according to the best of their knowledge and abilities; and if the utility of the plan should bear any proportion to their hopes and endeavours, they cannot doubt that the same spirit of benevolence which has already operated in its favor, will still further extend its influence, so as to give strength and stability to what is now but an infant Institution.

No. 3.

SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE SPINNING SCHOOL,

At the close of the Year 1789.

THE Spinning School at York took its rise from circumstances merely local. All the particulars of its progress it would be useless to enumerate. It did not assume its present form till the summer of 1785. The leading object of the institution is to excite a spirit of virtuous industry among the children of the poor, for if idleness and want of principle are the great sources of their poverty and wretchedness, such efforts as are directed to preclude or correct these evils, are the kindest and best services that can be done them.

The Sunday Schools established in so many parts of the kingdom, will, it is hoped, do something towards a reformation of manners; and in Manufacturing Countries they may be very extensively useful. But in a City like York,

where the children of the poor are idle all the week, the mothers being chiefly employed in washing or as char-women, they are by no means adequate to the whole of the evil which such Schools are intended to prevent or cure.

Encouraged by the success of the Spinning School, the Ladies who at first projected and who still superintend that Institution, about three years ago added to it a Knitting School, for the reception of children who are too young to be received into the other. This Institution is founded upon similar principles, and as far as it extends is found to answer equally well.

The Children are assembled regularly twice every Sunday at the Spinning School, and from thence attend such places of Public Worship as their respective parents or other friends most approve, and afterwards at the School they have such religious instruction given them by Ladies, who attend the School for that purpose, as is judged most likely to excite in their young minds an early love of virtue.

The Ladies, in some few instances, have paid for the board and lodging of the Children of Parents who have either wholly abandoned them, or whose notorious profligacy, if they had been left subject to their influence, must have terminated in their total ruin. To this they have been led by considerations similar to those which have induced many worthy characters in different parts of the Island, to associate themselves for the Reformation and Improvement of Manners; and they have already the satisfaction of seeing several young persons placed as servants in creditable families,

and likely to become useful members of society, who, without such patronage, must have fallen an early sacrifice to vice and infamy.

The expence hitherto incurred in each School, as well as the number of children taught in them, will appear from the Reports printed annually.

No. 4.

CLOTHES ALLOWED TO THE SPINNING GIRLS, IN PROPORTION TO THEIR LABOR.

<i>Spinners from four to six Hanks per day.</i>	<i>Six Hanks.</i>	<i>Seven Hanks.</i>	<i>Eight Hanks.</i>
A stuff Gown	IN ADDITION.	ADDITIONAL.	ADDITIONAL.
Two linen Bedgowns	A checked Apron	A Cap	A green Rib-
Two Shifts		A coloured Shawl	band
Two pair of Shoes		A pair of Pattens	round the Hat
Two checked Hand-kerchiefs			A pair of Worsted Mittens
Two blue Aprons			
A straw Hat			
Two pair of Stockings			
Three ounces of Worsted			
Shoes mended twice			

<i>Spinners of ten Hanks.</i>	<i>Eleven Hanks.</i>	<i>Twelve Hanks.</i>
ADDITIONAL.	ADDITIONAL.	ADDITIONAL.
A better Shawl	One Cap	One checked Apron
A wolsey Petticoat	A stuff Petticoat with the Gown	A black bonnet
One Shift		

Stays are allowed to those who have regularly spun seven hanks per day, for one year.

Cloaks are lent, and when the Girls go to service, are given to them, if they have behaved well in the School, and leave it with the approbation of the Ladies who superintend it.

The Knitters are also supplied with each a Gown, a Hat, a Handkerchief, and Cloak, for their Sunday dress. These are kept at the School, and put on there every Sunday morning, and taken off again at night.

No. 6.

PAPERS RESPECTING THE GREY COAT SCHOOL.

EXTRACTS FROM A PAPER

Sent to the Gentlemen's Committee, January 1786.

..... PREVIOUSLY to the forming of a plan for properly conducting a Female Charity School, it might seem expedient to ascertain with some precision what the ends are that it would be desirable to attain, and next, to consider what plan, if rightly pursued, would be the most likely to attain these ends.

In the first place, it should be considered, that as there are not any little trades which the lower classes of women can be taught, the best thing that can be done for girls in that rank of life, is to make them fit for servants: But as it may happen without any fault of theirs, that they may not always be able to find places, they should likewise be taught some probable means of gaining a livelyhood in such an emergency; also they should be instructed in such employments as will be most useful to them if they marry and have families of their own.

In order to be fitted for servants, they should be taught to few, knit, and spin line, to wash, to milk, to clean a house, and should have such other general instructions in houwfifery as their situation can admit of; and in order to enable them to maintain themselves if they should be out of place, and also to enable them

in after life to assist in bringing up a family :
They should *in this Country* be well instructed in
spinning worsted. . . .

No. 7.

February 2d, 1786.

. THE Ladies have visited the Grey Coat School this morning, have had some conversation with the Master and Mistress, and have seen the children. They have also taken down their respective names, ages, years of admission, and likewise some account of their behaviour, since they were placed with their present master and mistress.

This was done for the purpose of forming some general idea of their moral habits, as well as of their outward appearance ; both being previously necessary, before any opinion can be given suited to their present state. The Ladies are very sorry to find in the first place, that these poor children are extremely ignorant,* that the greater part of them make a practice of taking every thing that falls in their way, such as bread, soap, candles, &c. &c. of denying that they have done it, so that notwithstanding, there are now two girls in the school aged 14, who have been in it seven years ; and twelve, from 14 to 16, who have been in it six years,

* It is a fact, that many of them could not count so far as twenty.

yet there are not any who could at present be received into any decent family, these being faults, which more than any other, would totally exclude them.

No. 8.

March 3d, 1786.

. THE Ladies hope it will not be proposed that the girls shall as heretofore be bound apprentices for their labor: The obedience paid by a young person in that situation, is little better than the obedience of a slave, and whatever plea, in some parish instances, may be drawn from necessity, it is generally found to be a compact really hurtful to the disposition of both parties, and terminates not unfrequently in the ruin of the child so bound. If a Charity School merely keeps a girl a few years, and then places her out apprentice, it exactly does what her parish would have been obliged to do, and no good whatever results to the child from the institution.

May the Ladies be allowed to suggest their ideas upon another subject? They are not altogether satisfied with the present mode of requiting the Master and Mistress, whereby it is made their *interest* to abridge the children of food and other necessaries; whereas, if possible no such temptation should be laid in the way even of the most upright person. Would it not be practicable for the Gentlemen to contract with a butcher, on whom they could depend,

to furnish a proper quantity of meat every week ; and in like manner to agree for flour, milk, and potatoes ? by this means the emolument of the Master and Mistress would arise, from their having house room, the run of the house for themselves and their family, and a certain salary. At first this would be attended with some additional trouble, but afterwards the average would be easily ascertained. . . .

No. 9,

THE Gentlemen with the utmost deference recommend to the Ladies the reconsideration of that part of their report which regards the Apprenticing of the Girls, as they apprehend that a young woman of sixteen years of age ought not to be her own mistress after one year's servitude. They rather apprehend that the Master or Mistress who takes one of the Girls into their service, should be considered as the Guardian of the young woman, till she becomes of a proper age for the regulation of her own conduct. And the Gentlemen are the more earnest in this idea, as it is a rule with them never to apprentice any of the Girls to places in which they are not likely to be properly and tenderly taken care of. And in this distribution they will always be happy to consult the Ladies who have already taken somuchpains in the business. With regard to finding the provisions of the House by contract, it appears to the Gentlemen that it would increase the expences of the family, and take off the spirit of economy ; which

should ever be an object in the eyes of the Girls.* — They therefore apprehend that a reasonable board should be given to the Master and Mistress, under the careful inspection of Visitors, whose report will be minutely attended to by the Gentlemen. The Gentlemen beg leave to return their warmest acknowledgements to the Ladies, for their kind and humane attention to the Charity; and request the continuance of their assistance and advice.

3d March, 1786.

No. 10.

April 6, 1786.

. . . . As the Gentlemen objected to the hints thrown out by the Ladies in their paper of last month, in regard to the best mode of maintaining the children; they will not now enforce any of the considerations on which these suggestions were founded, although they must confess that they have not yet seen cause to change their opinion.

On the general question relating to the best mode of disposing of the Girls when they leave the School, they concur with the Gentlemen in their first position, "that a young woman of 16, is not very fit to be her own Mistress," but they do not therefore conclude, that she ought to be bound apprentice; and they think that their objections are founded

* See an accurate statement of the difference of expence from actual experience, page 55.

not only upon general principles, but that they are also confirmed by experience. As however it may happen that what is most desirable, may not be practicable, the Ladies will at this time merely request that the Committee will suspend forming any decisive resolution on the subject: And this principally, because they flatter themselves, if they should be able to form a plan, by which the children would be kept in sight beyond the period of their leaving the School; and if it should appear probable, that the restraint upon their conduct by the operation of this plan, although different, should in the end be more effectual, that the Gentlemen would be willing to make trial of it.

No. 11.

May 4th, 1786.

.... SINCE the Meeting of the Committee at the beginning of last month, the Ladies have been endeavouring to proceed in the execution of the plan previously sketched out and approved of by the Governors, for the better regulation of the Grey Coat Girls, but they need not inform the Committee how it has happened, that they have not been able till this week to proceed with any regularity. Mrs. Lazenby's unhappy malady will amply supply the reason.

The Ladies have arranged the girls in the best manner they are able, having fixed their respective employments in rotation for the next nine months.

They will make no reply to a report which has been circulated, that the regulations proposed by them have been hurtful to Mrs. Lazenby, because the facts will speak for themselves: Neither are they much chagrined at what has been said, as they laid their account when they engaged in their undertaking, not only in having a great deal of trouble, but likewise being misunderstood and misrepresented. So long, however, as the Governors of the Charity will accept their services, they mean to persevere in exerting their best endeavours for the good of the institution, notwithstanding what ignorance, prejudice, or the narrow views of those whose interest it may be to oppose any new regulations, may insinuate to their disadvantage, either individually or collectively. . . .

No. 12.

June 3d, 1786.

. . . . It has been argued in defence of apprenticeships, that a young girl is by this means placed under the guardianship and protection of those, who have pledged themselves to take care of her until she shall have gained sufficient experience to conduct herself.

But in order to judge of the force of this argument, let it be inquired who these persons are that are so ready thus to pledge themselves; and whether the motives by which they are influenced, are such as would be likely to lead to a more faithful discharge of

this trust, than might otherwise be expected from them.

With regard to the first, they have generally been the very lowest tradespeople, alehouse-keepers, or very little farmers ; and are persons, thus situated, usually very fit to have the absolute command over a young girl for a term of four years, and that at a period of her life, more important perhaps than any other, to the whole of her well-being ? Do they in general so conduct themselves and their families, that a wise and discreet parent would venture to entrust them with this power ?

If this should not be affirmed, our next inquiry will respect the motives by which these persons are influenced ; and it will probably be found, either that the desire of gain, or of exercising a power, which cannot be obtained over a servant engaged on more equal terms, has supplied the temptation : If the first, let it be remembered, that the Master is to provide for the Apprentice in sickness, as well as in health ; and it will be seen on a fair calculation of the hazard incurred, that if the desire of gain were the incitement, he will frequently be disappointed : and whenever this happens, what sort of treatment is an unprotected young Girl in such circumstances likely to meet with ?

Is it a desire of undue authority ? That this is frequently the case, is the general opinion of such persons of their own rank, as are most competent to judge on the subject ; and is increase of power likely to meliorate a character previously, and in other respects defective and

perverted? Will not the consciousness of this privilege, be attended by a secret jealousy and feeling of resentment on the one part; and will it not supply a strong temptation to transgress the boundaries of equity and justice on the other? But on this subject it is not needful to speculate. Facts will speak for themselves: it is well known that an Apprentice for labor, of either sex, seldom turns out well, whether bound by the parish, or by a charity school, &c.

But in respect of young women in particular, how do objections multiply? What opportunities for seduction, and for something more atrocious than seduction, does not such a situation supply to a depraved unprincipled Master? Will it be said, that on complaint being made to a Magistrate, redress may be obtained for this as for any other offence? Let it be remembered, that independently of the general disadvantages under which oppression must always labor when opposed to power; that these are cases of such delicacy, that the very appeal to a Court of Judicature, would be ruinous to the character and future prospects of the unfortunate Girl, who should be driven to make it; for, admitting the guilt of the Master, and the innocence of the Girl to be fully proved, (a thing in itself almost impossible) yet would not something of disgrace still attach to her? What decent family would hazard the taking as a servant, one who had been thus circumstanced?

If the above reasoning be admitted, then it will follow, that the present mode of apprenticing the Girls on their leaving the School, ought to be discontinued, as being likely in

theory, and as having been found in fact, to produce effects very contrary to what were at first, and have all along been the intentions and wishes of the Patrons of this Charity.

Signed by

Mrs. Salmond;	Mrs. Bedingfield,
Mrs. Swainton,	Mrs. R. Croft,
Mrs. Withers,	Mrs. Ellis,
Mrs. Dr. Withers,	Mrs. Cappe.
Mrs. Sawyer,	

No. 13.

June 10, 1786.

..... THE Grey Coat School is now put upon such a footing, that it is hoped, the Girls hereafter educated in it, will not only be made fit for servants, but will acquire such habits of decency, order, self-government, and industry, as will be some preservative to them when they go out into the world, against the contrary vices, to which the lower classes are most prone; and if they can also be impressed with some idea of christian duty, can be made to see that their own most important interests are connected with it; and, moreover, if the sense of former benefits, should excite in them the wish of continuing under the protection, and of deserving the approbation, after they have left the School, of those who have patronized them whilst they con-

tinued in it—these sentiments would be a still further preservative to them.

Imprest with this idea, they wish that an institution so useful might attain all the ends for which it was established, the Ladies, therefore, who have undertaken the superintendance of the School, have been induced to hope that some plan might be formed, which by its influence, should operate for their good upon the minds of the children, as well as be the means of affording them relief in an hour of sickness or distress, when they shall no longer be under their immediate eye; something of this kind being more especially wanted, as many of the Children are Orphans, and entirely destitute of protection or friends.—The outline of the projected plan is as follows :

To hold out some little reward, or to promise some little privilege as the requital of good behaviour; and likewise to afford them relief in time of sickness or unavoidable distress, and thereby, at the same time to prevent their becoming a burden to their respective Parishes. It is meant, however, that when in health, they should contribute towards this part of the plan themselves.

Something of this kind would be desirable, both as it might influence the Girls, and operate as a restraint upon the Master and Mistresses, even if the present mode of disposing of the Girls were continued.

It has been desired by the Ladies Committee, that some ideas might be arranged in writing upon this subject for their immediate consideration, in order that such of them as have not already subscribed to the Girls School, but who intend to subscribe to it in some way or other, might be better enabled to decide upon the mode in which they will apply their subscription; but it is found impossible at present to do more than merely suggest the *general* outline of a plan, which shall have the future patronage of the Girls for its object, as the filling of it up must necessarily vary accordingly as it shall hereafter be determined by the Governors of the Institution to continue the present mode of apprenticing the Girls, or not.

It may, however, be sufficient at this time, if such Ladies as may chuse to put their Annual Subscriptions into this channel, would pay them into the hands of Mr. Mortimer, the Treasurer, (if he will accept the trust) under this general restriction; that if the plan when agreed upon and after the experiment has been made, should not be found to answer, that he will then pay the sum remaining in his hands into the General Fund of the Charity.

SUBSCRIBERS OF 10S. 6D. EACH :

Mrs. Salmond,
Mrs. Swainston,
Mrs. Withers,
Mrs. Ellis,
Mrs. Sawyer,

Mrs. R. Croft,
Mrs. Cheap,
Mrs. Bedingfield,
Mrs. Eyre,
Mrs. Cappe.

No. 14.

SCALE OF REWARDS,

PUT INTO THE REWARD BOX.

WOOL SPINNERS.	LINE SPINNERS.
Per Week.	Per Week.
d.	d.
Five hanks per day . . . 0 ¹ ₄	Five lea per day . . . 0 ¹ ₄
Six hanks 0 ¹ ₂	Six lea 0 ¹ ₂
Eight hanks 0 ³ ₄	Eight lea 0 ³ ₄
Ten hanks 1	Ten lea 1
Twelve hanks 2	Twelve lea 1 ¹ ₂

KNITTERS.

	d.
Three Stockings per Week	1 ¹ ₂
Four Mittens	1 ¹ ₂

Every Girl who has spun twelve hanks of Wool per day, for six months, has a white Apron given her.

REWARDS GIVEN BY THE LADIES ANNUALLY,
ON MAY DAY.

Best Washer and Ironer of the First Class—A muslin Handkerchief, value three shillings.

Second Class, best Line Spinners.—A muslin Handkerchief, value two shillings.

Third Class, best Worker.—A silver Thimble.

Fourth Class, best and quickest Knitters.—A pair of cotton Mittens.

Fifth Class, best Marker of the Third Class.—A cotton Work-Bag and Huswife.

Sixth Class, best Reader of the First Class.—A Book.

No. 15.

February 1794.

. ORDERED, That the Girls in the Charity School without Monk-Bar, shall in future have butchers-meat, for their dinners three days in every week—to be fixed by the Ladies, and the additional expence to be paid out of the Charity's Fund.

Ordered, That Mr. Harper's Annual Salary shall be increased from fifteen guineas to 20l.—To commence from Old Lady-Day next, on the recommendation of the Committee of Ladies, and as a compensation for his constant attention to the charity.

Ordered, That the unanimous thanks of this Meeting be given to the Ladies for their unreared and useful exertions in promoting the beneficial objects of this Charity.

PRESENT.

Rt. Hon. the Ld.-Mayor,
 The Dean,
 The Recorder,
 The Rev. Mr. Croft,
 The Rev. Forrest,
 Mr. Alderman Bluitt,
 Mr. Alderman Metcalfe,
 Mr. Wolley,
 Mr. Clark,

Mr. M. Croft,
 Mr. Sheriff Fowler,
 Mr. Tireman,
 Mr. Harrison,
 Mr. Sanderson,
 Mr. Stabler,
 Mr. Baker,
 Mr. Bell,
 Mr. Erskine

No. 16.

. . . At a Monthly Meeting of the Gentlemen's Committee on Friday the 4th day of February, 1799, Ordered, that the Rev. Mr. Forrest, the Rev. Mr. Graham, Mr. Hepworth, and Mr. Healey be appointed a Committee to confer with the Ladies who superintend the Grey Coat School on the propriety of restraining the number of Girls annually placed out to servitude by them, and that they report the result of their conference at the next Monthly Meeting.

No. 17.

Feb. 1799.

*The Gentlemen's estimate of
the expence of the Grey Coat
Girls School, under the
Ladies management.*

Girls admitted during
the last three years . 12

Average of three years 4

Total change of
Girls in . . . $10\frac{1}{4}$ years

£. s. d.

Total expence of
each Girl per
head per ann. 11 4 7

Each Girl costs
the Charity du-
ring the whole
of her residence 115 1 11 $\frac{3}{4}$

*The Ladies statement as ap-
pears from the Admission
Book.*

Girls admitted during
the last three years 20

Of the last three years,
with the deduction of
one - 7

Total change in
about $6\frac{1}{2}$ years

Total expence of each Girl
per head, per annum.

For Maintenance £.s.d. £.s.d.
and Cloathing 10 0 0

Taxes & repairs
of School . 1 4 7

— 11 4 7

Each Girl costs the £. s. d.
charity during the
whole of her resi-
dence 72 19 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

N. B. Exclusive of
taxes and repairs,
about £.65 each.

No. 18.

THE Ladies, who attend the Grey Coat School, having been particularly fortunate for the last twelve years in a humane, careful, cleanly honest matron, who treats all the children under her care with as much tenderness as if they were her own, are through her means

enabled to publish the receipt of such wholesom and cheap food, as they have found to answer best for the use of the school; and which might perhaps be adopted with advantage in other similar institutions.

They perfectly agree with Count Rumford, in the superior nutritive quality of barley, above every other grain for thickening soups; and they found that Scotch barley, which is differently prepared from what is commonly called pearl barley, and may be generally bought in the Northern Counties of England for three half pence, or two pence per pound, will thicken milk in the proportion of five pound of barley to seven pound of rice, and it is equally good either in soup or broth. The new Iron Pans, called Digesters, recommended by that great benefactor of the poor, already mentioned, Count Rumford, would enable them to make soups excellent, with a much smaller quantity of meat, and therefore at much less expence as well as with much less trouble, than any other kind of food.

N. B. The following receipts contain each a sufficient quantity of food to dine 44 people.

BAKED PUDDINGS.

Eighteen pound and half of fine wheat flour, well mixed, with 13 quarts of milk. The baking dishes (four in number) to be warmed and well rubbed with suet. Three hours will bake them. The sauce, called *Yorkshire dip*, is made with vinegar one gill—water a quart—three spoonfuls of flour—half a pound of treacle, boiled together a few minutes.

MUTTON PIES.

Fat mutton nine pounds—potatoes a peck and half—pepper and salt. For the crust, fine flour nine pound, bread flour five pound, three pound of suet shred fine, and boiled in as much milk or water, as is sufficient to make the flour into paste. Milk makes the paste lighter. Cover the bottom and sides of the dishes, (four in number) and add, a lid of the same; bake the pies three hours and they will turn out. The dishes must be well rubbed with suet, in like manner as the pudding dishes.

Quantity of Potatoes, and manner of Cooking them.

Three pecks scraped and washed very clean; when boiled, mash them with three quarts of milk, and a little salt.

BARLEY MILK.

Five pound of barley boiled in soft water three hours, then add thirteen quarts of milk, and a pound of fine flour; when taken off the fire stir in a pound and half of treacle.

PEASE PORRIDGE.

A peck of grey or white pease, boiled five hours in 25 quarts of water, to which add one pound of suet, pepper, salt, flour, and a little onion. Grey pease are better, and generally one-third cheaper, than white. In the School, the broth of the day before is used instead of suet. Brown bread is always allowed at dinner except on the pudding and pye days, and the average quantity consumed by every individual is about half a pound.

OX HEAD STEW.

Half a large head, washed very clean. Put to it six gallons of water, let it stew from an

early hour in the afternoon, over a gentle fire, till bed time, close covered up, so that as little evaporation as possible may escape, without skimming off the fat. At night let the fire be renewed and made up, so that the head may continue to stew, and about seven in the morning add three quarters of a peck of potatoes well scraped and washed, a bunch of carrots cut in pieces, six leeks and a handfull of pot herbs. Thicken it with two quarts of oatmeal, or barley meal ; add some pepper and salt, and add from time to time as much hot water as will make up the waste, and stew it gently till noon, when it will be ready to serve for dinner. The whole, twenty-six quarts of savoury soup.

By diminishing the quantity of water and potatoes this soup may be made sufficiently strong to suit any palate.

No. 19.

PAPERS RELATING TO THE FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

THE great utility of those Societies among the Men, the object of which is to contribute in health towards the support of the Members in sickness, being generally admitted ; and it having been found moreover to be perfectly practicable to adopt a similar plan for the benefit of poor Women, an earnest wish has been excited in the Ladies who have patronized the Spinning-School and Grey Coat Schools, that some plan of the like kind might be adopted

for the benefit of the Girls who have been educated there: And, among many other considerations which have given rise to this wish, are the following:—

1st, That, hereby, a more permanent connexion might be formed between the Girls and their Patronesses, it being a part of the plan, that as many as can do it should, at least once a year, meet such Ladies as patronize the institution; by which means, their respective circumstances would be inquired into and known; much distress might be prevented or relieved; and thus, while confidence in their benefactors, and gratitude towards them, were on their part excited, the Ladies would have the pleasure of cultivating and improving their own sympathetic, kind, and benevolent affections.

2dly, The Girls being by this means still kept in sight by those persons, to whom they have been accustomed to look up with respect and affection, would have a new set of motives to incite them to right conduct: and many of them being orphans; or having parents, whose examples it would be ruinous to imitate, stand in very great need of such patronage and protection.

An outline of the plan is as follows:

That every girl who is desirous of becoming a member of the society, shall contribute 1s. 6d. towards the fund every quarter of a year, out of her wages, and after having paid regularly for one whole year, shall be entitled to the following privileges, viz:

In the first place, To receive from the fund, during any indisposition that shall oblige her to leave her place, (provided such indisposition has not been occasioned by wrong or immoral conduct,) the weekly sum of 4s that is to say, whilst she continues so ill as to be unable to earn any thing towards her own support: only with this proviso, that in any case in which she would be intitled to the benefit of becoming an hospital patient, after her actual admission she shall receive no more than 1s. per week, during her stay in the hospital.

2dly, That after she is so far recovered as to be able to spin, or to follow any other occupation which may contribute towards her maintenance, she shall then be entitled to 2s. per week, till such time as her recovery is perfected.

3dly, As an encouragement to steadiness of behaviour, every girl who has continued in the same place three years, who has behaved well, and is not in debt, shall at the expiration thereof, upon producing a testimonial of her good conduct from her master or mistress, receive a small present of wearing apparel, to the amount of 5s. to be paid for out of the fund, and to be worn by her as a mark of honour.

4thly, Every member who shall have been such for seven years, and has behaved well in service, shall receive a present of household furniture to the amount of 20s. to be paid for out of fund, and to be considered as a mark of honourable distinction, which shall be preserved in a place appointed for the purpose, with her name affixed to it, till her marriage, or till by some other means she has a room of her own to put it in.

5thly, Every member who, after her marriage, chuses to continue such, shall be entitled to the same privileges of weekly assistance in time of sickness; only with this restriction, that she cannot be entitled to any benefit from the fund during the time of her lying-in, or during the continuance of any illness occasioned thereby.

6thly, That two ladies shall be appointed stewardesses, who shall engage to attend, in person, four times a year (or to find a deputy) to receive the contributions of the members; and, moreover, who shall engage to visit such sick members as may be resident in the City of York, in order to ascertain the reality of their sickness. Members, *not resident* in York, must ascertain the reality of their indisposition by written notice given to one of the Stewardesses, signed by the Minister and Churchwardens of their respective parishes; or by the testimony of an Apothecary, who shall attend for that purpose.

Further, In order that these Institutions may produce the full effect, it is very desirable, in the first place, that the fund should be regulated by those members who take nothing out of it, and who may therefore be styled Honorary Members; and, in the second, that these Honorary Members should also have a particular fund of their own, entirely at their own disposal. By the first regulation every kind of fraud, and the operation of all interested views are prevented; and, by the second, the Honorary Members will obtain a degree of influence which is of great importance to the preservation of order and decorum; and will acquire the power of giving assistance in many particular exigencies, to which the *general* fund cannot extend. The sum of 12s. annually, that is to say, of 6s. to the general, and 6s.

to the particular fund, would probably be adequate to the ends proposed by the subscriptions of the Honorary Members ; and any Lady who wished further to promote the Institution, would probably do it with the best effect, in the way of donation.

It is usual, in similar institutions, to begin with a *given* number, and to fix a limit, beyond which the number of Members shall not increase ; but in this particular instance, that method cannot be adopted, for the *very* design supposes the admission of perhaps 8 or 10 new Members every year : It has been found, however, that a proportion of about 20 Members who take nothing from the fund, to 60 who are to be relieved by it, will be required to enable the fund to answer all the demands upon it.

A set of articles will be prepared as soon as possible, containing such particulars as could not be enumerated in the above sketch, which is merely an outline. These articles will be binding upon the Members, and will relate only to the *general* fund ; in respect of which, every poor Member, as she contributes towards it, must have a vote equally with the Honorary Members.

If it shall be found that, in the above statement, the monies to be paid, and the benefits to be received do not duly correspond, then the several specific sums mentioned in this paper must be altered in the articles.

The following Ladies do already subscribe towards this plan, viz.,

Lady Anderson
Mrs. Salmond
Mrs. Swainston
Mrs. Withers
Mrs. Bedingfield

Mrs. Eyre
Miss Hasel
Mrs. Ellis
Mrs. Sawyer
Mrs. R. Croft

Lady Frankland
Mrs. Richmond
Mrs. Gray
Mrs. Cappe

DONATIONS.

Mrs. Freeman, <i>Fawley Court</i>	£. 2	2	0
Mrs. Sandercock	0	10	6

No. 20.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST SET OF RULES.

THE Ladies who have promoted this Association being particularly interested about the welfare of the poor Girls who are the objects of it ; and, moreover, taking into consideration the

very forlorn state of young females that are parentless and friendless, have determined to make them the offer of being formed into a Society, of which, for its further support and encouragement, they will themselves become Members.

The Objects of this Association are,

In the first place, By the contributions of the Members, during health, to form a Fund towards their support in sickness;—and, in the second place, after the term of their education is elapsed, to retain still within the sphere of useful influence such young persons as having been brought up in the Grey-Coat, or Spinning-Schools, shall chuse to avail themselves of the proposed Institution, for the sake of preserving and improving the good principles and habits which, it is hoped, they may have gained there; as well as for their relief in time of sickness.—It is the purpose of the Ladies to subscribe also towards a *second* fund, which shall likewise operate for the benefit of the poorer Members, in exigencies towards which the *first* fund, principally formed of their own subscriptions, cannot extend. The distributions from this second fund, they will reserve entirely to their own direction and in their own power: The following Rules and Articles therefore relate to the *first* fund only; in respect to which all the poorer Members will have votes, equally with the Ladies, their Patronesses.

No. 21.

REWARDS FOR GOOD CONDUCT.

EVERY Member who has continued such for three years, and has behaved well during that

time, shall be rewarded with the sum of 5s. to be laid out in some article of wearing apparel, to be worn by her on the future days of meeting; and every Member who has continued such for seven years, and behaved well, shall be intitled to the sum of 20s. to be applied to the same purpose, and worn as a mark of honor.

No. 22.

PRIVILEGE OF THE HONORARY MEMBERS.

THAT every honorary Member shall have the privilege of introducing one other Member, although she may not have been educated in either of the Schools as before specified; provided she be a young woman of healthy constitution, and of good character, and she, upon paying her contribution, and conforming to the rules in like manner as the others, shall be entitled to all the privileges arising from the Institution.

No. 23.

CONTAINING THOSE RULES OF THE FRIENDLY SOCIETY

*Advertted to in these Papers, in which alterations were proposed.**

RULE XI. The allowance to sick and indisposed Members of this Society, during their illness, shall be as follows, viz. In case the illness shall be such as wholly to disable the party from working, or (if in service) from discharging the duty of her place, 4s. a-week, for the term of six

* To have printed all the Rules, would have very much increased the size of this publication, and it was thought unnecessary, as the outline of the Society has already been given.

months, from the time of her first application for relief, and 2s per week, for the further term of six months. And in case of blindness, lameness, or bodily indisposition, not wholly disabling the party from contributing towards her own maintenance, but obliging her (if a servant) to quit her service, 2s. a-week for the term of twelve months, from the time of her first application ;—and if the case is such that the party can be admitted a patient of any Hospital, her allowance shall be only 1s. 6d. per week, while an in-patient—and 2s per week, while an out-patient thereof. Provided always, That no Member after having been relieved as above for the space of twelve months, shall be entitled to any further assistance from the Funds of this Society, till the end of other twelve months, unless the Committee at a Quarterly Meeting shall on the special circumstances of the case direct to the contrary. Nor shall any Member be entitled to any allowance, in case of sickness or indisposition, unless she shall have been admitted and paid her contribution money for six months, previous to application for relief.

RULE XVIII Any Member choosing to continue such after her marriage, shall upon paying her contribution money as before-mentioned, be entitled to receive, if required, the sum of 10s. on the birth of each child, over and above all the other benefits arising from this Institution.

RULE XIX. If any General Member shall continue such for forty years, her contribution shall be reduced to 4s. a-year, if the Fund of the Society shall then amount to 150l. or

upwards; and whenever the Fund shall amount to 250l. or upwards, every Member having continued such for the above term, shall be exempt from all further contributions, and shall nevertheless be intitled to all the advantages arising therefrom.

List of the present Honorary Members of the Society.

Lady Frankland	Miss Clough	Mrs. Walker
Lady Anderson	Miss J. Fountayne	Mrs. Stabler
Mrs. Cheap	Mrs. Leedes	Miss Salmond
Mrs. R. Croft	Mrs. Dawson	Mrs. Ewbank
Mrs. Eyre	Mrs. Hartley	<i>Londbro'</i>
Mrs. Gray	Mrs. J. Eyre	Mrs. Marwood
Mrs. Salmond	Mrs. Wentworth	Mrs. G. Markham
Mrs. Withers	<i>Hickleton.</i>	Mrs. A. Thompson
Mrs. Dr. Withers	The Dowager	Miss Marsh
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Miss Hassell	Mrs. Smith	Dalton
Miss Fountayne	Mrs. Wellbeloved	Mrs. Knight
Miss Ramsden	Miss Cappe	Mrs. Perrot
Mrs. Stillingfleet	Miss Barton	Miss Royds
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<i>Newbold</i>	Mrs. G. Crompton	Mrs. Robinson
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Mrs. Liveley	Miss M. Pennington	Lady Crauford
Miss Mortimer	Miss Goodricke	Lady Lawley
Mrs. Royds	Mrs. Clough,	Hon. Mrs. Wil-
Mrs. Boulby,	<i>Bramham</i>	loughby
Mrs. Burgh	Mrs. Lofthouse	

Ladies who superintend the Grey Coat School.

Lady Anderson	Mrs. Cheap	Mrs. Allen
Lady Frankland	Mrs. A. Eyre	Mrs. F. Croft
Mrs. Salmond	Mrs. Preston	Miss Woodcock
Mrs. Withers	Mrs. Strickland	Miss Swainston
Mrs. Dr. Withers	Mrs. John Eyre	Miss M. Salmond
Mrs. Gray	Mrs. Marwood	Mrs. Coates
Mrs. R. Croft	Miss Hassell	



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